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Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh on Representation, Peace Efforts

JN0605094491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 91 p 5

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department, affirmed that there is complete Jordanian-Palestinian understanding on all issues.

He added that the basic issue is to sense the seriousness of the current political moves to convene what is called the international peace conference. This seriousness can be manifested only if international forces, particularly the United States, pressure Israel to halt its settlements and abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy in preparation for an international conference.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that within such a framework, ideas about the relationship between Jordan and Palestine occasionally are put forth. The obstacle to holding a peace conference does not lie in the stand Jordan or Palestine adopts, or the relationship between them, since this is something the two parties alone decide according to the interests of the two people and the Palestinian people's rights, particularly their right to self-determination, to achieve independence on their national soil, and the right to return to their homeland.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said: For our part, we believe the major issue is holding an effective conference with international participation under the UN aegis. All the parties concerned, including an independent Palestinian delegation to be formed by the PLO from figures inside and outside the occupied territories, should attend the conference.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the most dangerous idea currently being discussed is to exclude Palestinians from outside the territories from participating. This means the rights of half the Palestinian people will not be discussed at any international conference. This will greatly harm the interests of both Jordan and the PLO. The PLO will cancel its representation of half the Palestinian people. On the other hand, this will mean for Jordan that it directly or implicitly agrees to the idea of resettlement, or the substitute homeland, and to abandoning the refugees' rights to repatriation. From this premise, the question of an independent Palestinian delegation that will comprise figures from inside and outside the occupied territories is neither a formal issue, nor a question of procedure. It is a crucial issue. That's why we jointly insist on this point. On the other hand, our understanding and coordination with Jordan will continue, and this is something on which we both agree. We will not allow the emergence of any differences between us in future. We also will not accept becoming victims of the maneuvers which seek to sow discord between us, or to magnify the issue to have it become a Jordanian-Palestinian problem.

In reply to a question on the reactivation of the 11 February agreement, the head of the PLO Information Department said that the discussions under way have nothing to do with new agreements, or the reactivation of previous ones. He added: Understanding and cooperation between us are very much enhanced and based on broad experience and past incidents. Thus, we proceed from all this to prevent any outside attempt to sow discord between us. We are now united by solid bonds based on the realization that Jordanian-Palestinian interests dictate a united stand to support the call for the return of the occupied Palestinian territories, secure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and highlight the independent Palestinian representation at all stages of the political process. In the same manner that this constitutes a Palestinian interest, it also constitutes a Jordanian interest.

On the question of forming a provisional Palestinian government in the occupied territories, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We do not now see any justification for discussing the formation of a provisional government. Palestinian representation does not now need such a government, especially since the PLO enjoys popular support and national unanimity inside and outside the occupied territories, as well as large Arab and international recognition.

He said a government formula may be discussed at a subsequent stage. For example, he explained, if the occupied territories are placed under international supervision and a referendum and elections are offered under international supervision to enable the Palestinian people to exercise the right to self-determination in their homeland, then such a formula can be useful and can have a national purpose as a part of the process for settling the Palestine question.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: The current calls for replacing the PLO with a provisional government to serve the voices and policies which consider the PLO an obstacle to a just peace. This is the most dangerous dimension of these calls. Therefore, we consider that raising the issue of Palestinian representation or casting doubts about it, directly or indirectly, serves nothing under the current circumstances but Israeli intransigence and the ongoing U.S. maneuvers aimed at excluding Palestinian representation or separating the Palestinians inside the occupied territories from the Palestinians outside.

On the holding of a meeting by the five Arab states concerned about an international peace conference and whether this issue has been discussed with the Jordanian side, he said that this idea had been proposed by the PLO Executive Committee before the PLO Central Council adopted it at its recent meeting. The aim of this idea is to achieve the highest degree of coordination among the

Arab states concerned with the international peace conference on the basis of Arab summit resolutions, which represent Arab legitimacy. He said Jordan has always been interested in Arab coordination, especially regarding fateful issues, headed by the Palestine question and a Middle East settlement. He added: This idea has always been raised during our recent contacts with Egypt. We hope that there will be a positive response to it. He said: During the forthcoming meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo, we will discuss this idea with Syria and Lebanon, and we expect a response to this proposal, especially since our proposal is an important factor for the prevention of separate solutions which Israel is trying to impose on Arab countries to isolate the Palestine question from other Arab issues.

On the recent visit by a Palestinian delegation to the Soviet Union and its meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, 'Abd-Rabbuh said the Soviet foreign minister affirmed support for all the major ideas raised during the talks, including the need for an international conference with effective powers held under UN supervision and on the basis of UN resolutions. All concerned international states should also participate in such a conference, including Europe. On the other hand, 'Abd-Rabbuh said, the Soviet minister affirmed that the conference will result in failure and be ineffective if the PLO does not take part in it. The minister stressed that no one can exclude the PLO representation and role.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Soviet Union seeks to play a more active political role in the settlement of the Middle East conflict than in the past.

He said: During our talks with the Soviets, we explained to them the gravity of the Soviet Union resuming diplomatic relations with Israel as this would mean encouraging Israel's current intransigent stands and the active and large-scale settlement policy it is now implementing. This policy primarily focuses on settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is the worst time for resuming relations. We hope that the Soviet Union will continue to abide by its previous conditions; that is linking the resumption of relations to the convocation of the international conference, the PLO's participation, and Israel's abidance by the resolutions of international legitimacy.

On the Palestinian intifadah, 'Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the most important thing on which Palestinian national efforts must focus at present is to to support the Palestinian intifadah and develop the popular role and the participation of all sectors and popular bodies in it. He said: We believe that expanding popular participation within the framework of the intifadah leadership is a step toward the enhancement of national unity and to the contribution by all the sectors of the Palestinian people in the struggle.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh added: On the other hand, we believe that a new formula concerning the relationship between the Palestinians inside and outside the territories is now needed. It must be based on effective integration and coordination on all issues, particularly on political issues, and on issues dealing with supporting the intifadah, providing it with all material assistance to bolster the national institutions and bodies in the occupied territories, and solving the problems from which sectors of the Palestinian people suffer.

On the meeting between the Palestinians and the U.S. secretary of state and what is being said about this meeting, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The Palestinian group which met with the U.S. secretary of state in the occupied territories is not a negotiating delegation and has not presented itself as such. We informed the Soviet foreign minister that the U.S. attempts to exploit these meetings to bypass the question of Palestinian representation, or to portray that this group could become the negotiating Palestinian delegation, will force the PLO to adopt a decision to stop these meetings.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The forthcoming stage requires direct negotiations with the PLO. The Palestinian delegation that will conduct these negotiations may comprise brother strugglers in the occupied territories and several Palestinian leaders from outside the occupied territories. This is the only balanced formula. One cannot continue to accept the formulas seeking to divide, or to separate between the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories.

On Arab support for the intifadah, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that Arab support for the intifadah has stopped since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. Even before the Gulf crisis, Arab support and assistance had been within their minimum levels and there had not been effective abidance by the Arab summit resolutions on the realization of this support.

Al-Hasan 'Confident' About Palestinians in Kuwait

PM0805101391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 2 May 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Khalid al-Hasan Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT: Shaykh Sa'd a Guarantee for Palestinians"]

[Text] Tunis, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Khalid al-Hasan, "Abu-al-Sa'id," chairman of the Palestine National Council Foreign and Parliamentary Affairs Committee and member of the Fatah Central Committee, has described the resolutions adopted by the Palestine Central Council [PCC] in its recent session as "negative." He emphasized that he was confident about the fate of Palestinians in Kuwait, because "the presence of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim at the head of the government is a firm guarantee of all that is humane and legal."

In an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT al-Hasan said that the PCC's resolutions were negative for the following reasons: First, because they did not contain a critical assessment of Palestinian political practices

during the period between the council's recent session held in the Tunisian capital 21-23 April and the previous session.

Second, because they revolved around basic stances, whereas what is required is adopting resolutions to be translated into practical stances that the PLO can at least implement.

Third, because they contained no concept designed to break the PLO's isolation. The PCC acted like a court, which is why its resolutions appeared as if they were judicial rulings.

He said: I believe that the biggest negative point here is the Arab and international isolation experienced by the PLO.

He added: It is the first time in the PCC's history that there has been no ballot on all the draft resolutions, and the drafting committee was left to determine what resolutions should be included in the final statement. This is in the knowledge that the drafting committee secretary, Dr. As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman, said that the resolutions included in the final statement had been unanimously agreed by the groups' leaders.

On the reason for the delay in appointing a new national security commissioner to succeed the late Salah Khalaf, "Abu-Iyad," Khalid al-Hasan said: There is a conflict between the nomination made by brother Yasir 'Arafat, namely Hakam Bal'awi, for the post of national security commissioner and the wish of most Central Committee members, who reject that nomination. I believe that the subject will be discussed at the first Central Committee meeting, God willing.

He added: Based on the resolution adopted by the Fatah Central Committee and in accordance with what brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said, the security organ will continue its work under 'Arafat's supervision until a new national security commissioner is chosen.

On the Palestinians' conditions in Kuwait, "Abu-al-Sa'id" said: The presence of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah at the head of the government is a firm guarantee of all that is humane and legal. And I will never forget the day His Highness described a prisoner as criminal, but immediately asked Almighty God for forgiveness and redressed it by saying "the accused."

He added: Undoubtedly the Palestinian position was difficult, especially because of the tendentious media followed by the Kuwaitis outside and inside their country. But the situation has eased since the arrival of his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir, and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd, as the realities started to emerge after the liberation of Kuwait. The Kuwaitis started to talk about the loyalty of the Palestinian community in Kuwait. He added: The examples here are in abundance and I cannot list them. But I cite here what young Kuwaitis inside Kuwait said about the Palestinians' loyalty, what was written by Muhammad Musa'id al-Salih, and what the AL-FAJR AL-JADID magazine has started to publish inside Kuwait. All, he said, will discover that the Palestinian community in general was loyal, not ungrateful. And there is no need to mention many details, because what is important is heal the wounds and restore everything to normal within a framework of love, cooperation, and integration without boasting or bragging about generosity. And it is enough for all to realize the scale of falsehood and the persist efforts to destroy the relationship between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian peoples mentioned in a report published by an Arab newspaper, which said that the number of Palestinians before the Iraqi occupation was 50,000, rising to 150,000 during the occupation, when everyone knows that there were over 300,000 Palestinians in Kuwait before the occupation and their number dropped to less than 150,000 as a result of the occupation

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Pledges Food Aid for Bangladesh

BK0605163891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Karachi, May 6 (AFP)—The visiting secretary general of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Kant Kishore Bhargava said here Monday Bangladesh can draw on the group's emergency food reserves.

Addressing journalists at the press club here he said the situation in Bangladesh was "very serious" and required the urgent and long-term attention of the world community, adding it could draw on the 250,000 tonnes of emergency food reserves set up by SAARC members "to meet immediate requirements."

The SAARC Secretary General is due to reach Islamabad Tuesday for talks with Pakistani authorities.

Bangladesh has already appealed to the world community for urgent aid as the death toll in last week's cyclone in Bangladesh reached more than 125,000 by official count.

SAARC includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned home Monday after a visit to Bangladesh during which he pledged "every possible assistance" for cyclone victims.

Pakistan has already sent medicine, rice and clothing. Other SAARC countries are also sending relief.

Neighbors 'Warily' Watching Indian Elections

BK0705083691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 7 May 91

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] New Delhi, May 7 (AFP)—India's smaller neighbours, many of whose lives depend on the whim of Delhi, are watching the upcoming Indian general elections warily, hedging their bets and saying they don't mind who comes to power.

But diplomatic sources here and in Islamabad, Colombo and Dhaka say that official statements aside they all have their preferences and in some cases fears of the outcome.

Perhaps the deepest apprehension behind the scenes in Colombo, where President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who came to power on a stand of getting Indian troops out of Sri Lanka, fears former premier Rajiv Gandhi might return. [sentence as received]

Mr. Premadasa's relations with Mr. Gandhi, who signed the agreement under which Indian troops poured across the narrow Palk Straits in 1987, have been prickly to the point of refusing to meet with him, the diplomats recall.

And to make things worse for the president, political observers in Colombo say both the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) appear to be rooting for Mr. Gandhi on the premise of "your enemy is my friend."

In neighbouring Islamabad, whose Army is, like the Indian Army, perpetually tied down for fear of a fourth Indo-Pakistan war, the official line is: "It makes no difference who comes to power until New Delhi changes its foreign policy over Kashmir."

But in reality the 44-year-long Kashmir stalemate does not stop Pakistan from worrying about a possible victory for the rightist and Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP or Indian People's Party).

Though the BJP promises a fair deal for all minorities in India including the country's 100 million moslems, it called islamic Pakistan "hostile" in its manifesto and said the inflammable border between the two should be reinforced.

And last year before the BJP pulled its backing from the then-government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh, it called for cross-border strikes on Pakistani bases where India says Kashmiri rebels are being trained and armed.

In this light disclaimers by Pakistani diplomats here that a possible BJP win does not worry them because the minority backlash would topple it, ring hollow.

Their lack of hope in any new government lessening border tension seems however to have been proved by experience, the diplomats say.

In tiny Nepal to the north, the picture is complex with incumbent caretaker Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar a firm favorite because of his open support for the successful pro-democracy movement last year.

But with Mr. Shekhar an unlikely victor, at least this time around, government sources in Kathmandu say Nepal is deeply worried about the possibility of a hung parliament, hoping against hope that whoever wins will have the two-thirds majority to get bills through parliament.

Faced with a four billion dollar trade deficit and richer countries channelling aid away from the poor of Asia to the poor of East Europe, Nepalese Congress leader Ganesh Man Singh says one of the only ways Nepal can struggle through is a hydro-power sharing agreement with India.

And for that agreement to be ratified, there needs to be enough strength at the center, whether it be a government of Mr. Gandhi or his arch rival V.P. Singh, the man who broke the Indian trade embargo on Nepal and pulled Indian troops out of Sri Lanka.

In Bangladesh, where the new government of Begum Khaleda Zia is preoccupied with the latest devastating cyclone disaster, official sources say the tilt is slightly in favor of a non-congress government with memories of a quick water-sharing agreement with then-premier Moraji Desai in 1977, and friendly gestures from V.P. Singh the second time congress was ousted.

What sympathy there had been for the young Rajiv Gandhi when he first came to power in 1984 evaporated when tribal refugee problems and territorial disputes dragged on unsolved, the sources say.

But South Asian diplomats across the board, like many of their colleagues from the United States, Europe and the Soviet Union generally share the scepticism in Delhi that the May elections could prove to be "only a semi-final."

Under this scenario the outcome would be yet another hung parliament, further political realignments and a shakedown of the parties before alliances solid enough to weather a normal five year term could form.

It is a scenario under which they say Delhi would have little time for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), of which it is the lynchpin, or for international initiatives.

Algeria

*Sources Say Reactor Data To Be Released

91AA0361A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 91 pp 1, 4

[Article by Qusay Salih Darwish: "Algeria Acknowledges Presence of Nuclear Reactor to Contain Campaign"]

[Text] Nouachkott—By acknowledging the presence of a nuclear reactor under construction, Algeria is putting an end to speculation on an issue that has recently aroused extensive controversy. Algeria is also trying to absorb the Western media pressure to which it is being subjected on this issue.

Informed sources in the Algerian capital expect the acknowledgment to be followed by the presentation of full information and detailed figures on the Algerian nuclear reactor in preparation for placing it under the supervision of the International Energy Agency.

The agreement between Algeria and the PRC to build this reactor dates back to 1983. Construction work started at the end of 1986 in the town of Ain Wizar, located 250 km south of the capital. The reactor is relatively small, having a capacity of 15 megawatts. But the presence of one reactor opens the door for building other reactors.

The idea of acquiring nuclear energy dates back to the days of the late President Houari Boumediene, and it constituted a part of his ambitious plan to transform Algeria into a "super" regional power.

This project is founded on a broad base of heavy industries, on developing educational structures and programs and spreading education, and on an important Algerian political presence which permits Algeria to play a first-class role at the African and Arab levels.

Some gigantic projects have surfaced within this context, such as the African Unity Highway which links Algeria with black Africa. It is also within this context that Algerian officials began to feel the need for a land outlet to the Atlantic Ocean via the Western Sahara.

In 1983, the comprehensive process launched by President Bendjedid to review the late president's policy—a review which led to a gradual abandonment of President Boumediene's ambitious political plan—had not started. This review did not occur until the end of 1985 and the start of 1986.

The idea of building a nuclear reactor had made great progress, and it seems that President Bendjedid was convinced of the strategic importance of a nuclear reactor from the perspective of its connection with the limited Algerian oil reserves, considering that Algeria will experience an acute energy crisis in two decades.

But the official acknowledgment of the presence of a nuclear reactor in Algeria will create numerous internal and external ramifications for the Algerian regime and for Algeria's foreign relations. Internally, the leaders of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] have exploited the issue to launch a concerted propaganda campaign in order to rehabilitate the FIS's political message, which has been shaken since the Gulf war, and to regain the its status in the political arena, considering that this status has declined because of the front's failure to manage the majority of the municipalities which it has controlled since last year's municipal elections and its failure to establish an election alliance with the other fundamentalist forces that are represented by the Association for Guidance and Reformation (Mahfoud Nahnah) and Ennahda Movement (Shaykh Djaballah).

In their election-oriented propaganda campaign, Islamic Salvation Front leaders say that as of the 12th of last June they expected the United States to strike Algeria after finishing with Iraq, and in a similar scenario. In this regard, they base their expectations on the fact that the initial information about the transformation of Algeria into a nuclear power came from the CIA. From this angle, they are try to embarrass the regime and mobilize the man on the street behind national issues that are connected with the outside world and that permit the delivery of a resonant address unrelated to the local problems on whose basis Algerian voters might cast their vote. To this moment, the regime has chosen to remain reserved so as to block the path of any endeavor to turn this sensitive issue into an issue of oneupmanship in political elections.

Regionally, announcement of the presence of a nuclear reactor and of Algeria's transformation into a nuclear power will relatively speaking change the prevalent power equation in the region even if the current Algerian leadership does not seek such a change. With this reactor, Algeria will be the first Arab and African country to acquire nuclear energy.

It is evident that inasmuch as it is aware of the importance of this fact, the Algerian leadership is also aware of the dimensions and weight of the responsibility of this development to Algeria itself and to Algeria's relations with the countries of the region, especially with its partners in the Arab Maghreb Union.

Internationally, announcement of the nuclear reactor comes at a time when Algeria's relations with the Western countries, whether with the United States or Europe, and especially with France, are noticeably lukewarm. This tepidity is due in part to the Gulf war. What has been strikingly interesting is that the French foreign minister who visited Morocco, Mauritania, and Libya has not yet visited Algeria even though such a visit was included as part of his Maghreb tour and even though it had been announced officially in Paris.

If President Bendjedid is trying to manage the reactor issue free of clamor and in a manner that permits his country to keep this reactor and to develop nuclear energy, he will try to reassure the Western parties by

familiarizing them with the details of the reactor and with its peaceful purposes, especially since he is aware of the harm and danger of this clamor. President Bendjedid is also aware of the security danger to which Israel could expose Algeria and of the possibility that Israel could stage an attempt to strike this reactor.

EL MOUDJAHID said yesterday that Algeria has offered to open its nuclear program to international inspection.

Egypt

Mubarak Announces Troops To Withdraw From Gulf

NC0805091091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that Egypt has decided to withdraw its troops from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Speaking to journalists today, President Mubarak said: Our forces went to the Gulf region at Saudi Arabia's request and to implement the resolutions adopted at the Arab summit in Cairo. Our forces have completed their mission and the decision for their return was made approximately one month ago.

President Mubarak criticized Israel's stand on the current peace efforts, saying that it raises obstacles by insisting on a regional conference.

The president also referred to the upcoming meeting in Cairo between the Soviet foreign minister, who will visit Egypt for the first time, and his U.S. counterpart James Baker.

Touching on changes in Egypt, President Mubarak said they will occur in due time to serve the country's interests. He remarked however that any vacancies will be filled quickly.

The president said our goal in this phase is to bring about economic reform and achieve equilibrium in the Egyptian economy. He warned greedy merchants against raising the prices of products which are not subject to the new sales tax.

At the outset of his meeting with journalists, President Mubarak replied to a question about reports that Egypt has withdrawn a number of its troops from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He said: Our troops went to the region at Saudi Arabia's request and in implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Cairo Arab summit. Two divisions along support troops and units of the shock troops were dispatched to the region and they have fulfilled their mission.

The president added: A month ago, I decided that these troops should return and actually began withdrawing our troops from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Only a small number of troops is deployed on the Saudi border. All the others took part in the liberation of Kuwait.

The president said that all the shock troops have already left and that the remaining support troops will return starting today. Hence, he added, all our troops will return safely from Kuwait within two and a half months or three months at the most, after completing their assigned missions.

Asked about his concept of the change he talked about in his May Day speech, President Mubarak reiterated that the required change does not mean just a change of faces, because this will not solve the problem. He stressed that change must cover everything: working methods, lifestyles, and practice. He underlined that our way of thinking must suit the prevailing conditions.

In this context, President Mubarak announced that a government reshuffle will be made in the next few days in a number of ministries, where change is required by circumstances. These changes will be made swiftly, he said, adding that changes in the executive authority will be made in due time.

The president said: Our age necessitates change in accordance with the assessment I make from my position of responsibility, and not out of capitulation to pressure from certain powers which fail to make an accurate assessment of the circumstances. I am capable of determining the suitable time for change, because I taker greater care to serve the public interest than do those who are not aware of everything. Ultimately, he added, I am responsible, not the person who demands the change.

President Mubarak added that we have to learn lessons from other states. Let us examine what happened in countries like the Soviet Union or Germany as a result of hasty changes, he said.

The president was asked to comment on the scheduled visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and on his assessment of current peace efforts, particularly in connection with the regional or international conference on peace in the Middle East. President Mubarak remarked that this will be the new Soviet foreign minister's first visit to Egypt. He added that Baker will arrive on Sunday and that the two guests will meet in Cairo. The president added: The U.S. secretary of state will discuss the peace process with me; he is making efforts to push this process forward.

Mubarak said: During his earlier visits, the U.S. secretary of state discussed the question of an international conference. Israel insists on a regional conference, some other parties insist on an international conference, and others just say a peace conference. We are creating problems over the name, when it is the essence rather than the name which counts. We want a solution. Israel, however, raises obstacles by describing the conference as a regional one. If it believes that some Gulf countries will attend, I can say that I doubt that will happen. The Gulf countries have no common borders with Israel and are not in a state of war with Israel. They are Arab countries who are as eager to resolve the Palestinian problem as all other Arab countries.

President Mubarak wondered why there is insistance on the Gulf countries' participation. He said: We might as well involve Djibouti, Mauritania, Sudan, or Somalia. Before you know it, participation becomes open to all.

President Mubarak stressed that matters should be specific. He said that the countries which are to participate in a peace conference must have common borders with Israel and lands occupied by Israel.

AFP Report on Withdrawal Refuted

PM0705160591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 2 May 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Military Force Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT: Our Forces To Stay in Gulf"]

[Text] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—An authoritative Egyptian military source yesterday denied the report carried by AFP last Tuesday that Egypt had started to withdraw its forces from the Gulf region.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT the source emphasized that the Egyptian forces will continue to perform their role in the region, even after a final agreement on security arrangements, the forces' size, nature, and area of deployment, and the region's stability, so as to guard against any repetition of what happened.

The source denied that Kuwait or Saudi Arabia could have requested the Egyptian forces' withdrawal. What happened, the source said, is that the Egyptian shock troops brigade that participated in the war to liberate Kuwait has been replaced by another brigade in order to provide experience for all armed forces elements.

Meanwhile, SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that the redistribution and redeployment of the Egyptian and Arab forces are being discussed so as to deploy elements from the Egyptian forces west of Kuwait near the borders with Iraq and return the rest of the Egyptian forces to the areas where they were stationed before war operations started in February.

It is known that more than 35,000 Egyptian troops participated in the war to liberate Kuwait.

'Abd-al-Majid Views Coming Visit by Bessmertnykh

NC0705154191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1507 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today that the visit to Cairo by Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, which will begin on Friday [10 May], is in the framework of exchanges held by the USSR and the United States to achieve peace in the Middle East. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described the visit as "very important." He noted that the Soviet foreign minister will meet with President Husni Mubarak and hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that the current exchanges will lead to progress toward the talks concerning peace, security, and stability in the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid concluded his remarks by praising the efforts made by both the Soviet Union and the United States in this regard.

'Abd-al-Majid Given Kuwaiti Counterpart's Message

NC0805094591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Amin Nammar.

Following the meeting, Ambassador Nammar stated that he delivered a message to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid from Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The message is part of consultations and coordination between the two countries and also dealt with bilateral relations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid responded to the message.

Armed Forces Chief Meets With Turkish Delegation

NC0605111591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, received Lieutenant General Dogan Celikay, assistant Turkish defense minister, and this accompanying delegation at the Defense Ministry this morning.

Discussions dealt with aspects of bilateral military cooperation in the spheres of joint training, the exchange of expertise, and joint manufacturing. They also reviewed the Egyptian-Turkish role in strengthening the peace process in the Gulf and Middle East areas.

Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, the Armed Forces chief of staff, also received the Turkish delegation. This meeting was attended by the two assistants to the defense minister, the two assistants to the chief of staff, and senior Armed Forces commanders.

Libya

Talks Begin With PRC in Tripoli 7 May

LD0705140491 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 May 91

[Excerpts] In Tripoli this morning, Arab Libyan-Chinese talks began to discuss ways and means of strengthening bilateral relations in all fields between the great Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of China, in the joint interest of the two friendly peoples.

The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation; and Yang Fuchang, vice foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, as well as the ambassador of China to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary praised the relations existing between the great Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of China, saying: We work in the light of excellent political relations, which constitute a firm ground for moving forward to promote these relations, in the economic, cultural, and scientific domains, in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

On his part, the Chinese vice foreign minister affirmed that relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and China are based on mutual trust, and they are growing everyday, while the Chinese Government attaches to these relations a particular interest, and seeks to promote and support them in all domains, whether political, economic, cultural, or scientific.

Official Departs

LD0705210391 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 May 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yang Fuchang, Chinese vice foreign minister, and his delegation left Tripoli today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Libyan-Soviet Friendship Society Meets

LD0705205791 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] The brother assistant secretary of the General People's Congress and chairman of the Libyan Arab-Soviet Friendship Society met with the Soviet charge d'affaires in the Great Jamahiriyah and representative of the Soviet-Libyan Arab Friendship Society in Tripoli today. The talks focused on ways to bolster and develop bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union. They also reviewed many subjects that could promote the activities of the friendship societies in the two countries.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Greece

LD0605211591 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] An agreement was signed in Tripoli this evening for developing cooperation in all fields between the Great Jamahiriyah and Greece. The agreement also calls for convening the joint Libyan Arab-Greek committee in July.

The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for oil and Stavros Dhimas, Greek minister of industry, energy, and technology.

Egyptian Paper Cited on Al-Qadhdhafi Call

LD0305202291 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Cairo, al-Ma' [May] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Egyptian newspaper AL-BALAGH issued yesterday, called for the prompt acceptance of the call made by the revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the guardian of Arab nationalism, to realise the unity between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The paper said that the Arab people's masses in Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt are eagerly looking forward for the achievement of this national goal which is considered a giant step towards the realisation of total Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf.

The paper added that the unity called for by Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi between great Jamahiriyah and Egypt would practically contribute in achieving security, defence and build-up of Arab force in all areas.

Sudan

Libyan Official Addresses Rally in Eastern State

EA0305143891 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1042 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 1 May (SUNA)—The secretary for Sudanese integration affairs in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Mr. Jum'ah al-Fazzani, has stressed his country's stand in support of Sudan in the face of the conspiracy aimed at its identity and faith. He also stressed his country's support for Sudan in all its economic and political projects until it has achieved its political will and decision.

He said this yesterday in a speech made at a rally held in the capital of the eastern state (?where he was accompanied) by Muhammad al-Zubayr Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and council of ministers, and Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Revolution and secretary of the provisional Libyan committee for national defense of this town.

Al-Fazzani said that the National Salvation Revolution, by its rejection of international hegemony, its (?application) of the Shari'ah, and its surrender of power to the people, had confirmed the sincerity of its orientation. He pointed out that what went on in Sudan in the way of popular conferences was a real surrender of power to the people to govern themselves.

Libyan Army Commander Ends Visit, Departs

EA0305145691 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA)—'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council

[RCC] chairman met here today with Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, member of the historic leadership of the Libyan 1 September Revolution and of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces. The meeting was also attended by Major General Muhammad al-Zubayr Salih, deputy chairman of the RCC and the council of ministers, and minister of the interior.

Colonel Abu Bakr expressed satisfaction with what he saw during his visits to areas of production and with the well-studied plans for the establishment of different projects. He referred to the high morale of workers at all the projects he visited. Col. Abu Bakr left the country today after concluding his visit to Sudan.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Education

LD0705092791 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 May 91

[Excerpts] Yesterday at the presidential palace in Carthage, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali chaired the regular meeting of the cabinet.

The cabinet heard reports from the ministers of interior and education about the events in some educational institutions caused by a group of corrupt persons attempting to obstruct lessons. The two ministers informed the cabinet about the firm stand adopted by the teachers, students, pupils, and the directors of the security institutions and departments in the face of this minority in order to protect our educational institutions.

In this concern, the head of state recommended supporting these institutions with the necessary administrative and educational resources and informing all concerned parties, especially parents, about the duty of confronting these destructive actions aimed against the most important gains of the people. [passage omitted]

After that, the cabinet looked into a draft law concerning the reform of the primary and secondary educational systems. After discussions it was decided to continue studying this draft law in a special cabinet meeting on Monday 13 May. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali, Nyerere Discuss North-South Issues

LD0405202691 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 May 91

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning met with Julius Nyerere, former Tanzanian president and current chairman of the South Committee for Poor Developing Countries, stemming from the Harare Nonaligned Conference; who handed the president a report prepared by the committee about means of developing countries of the South.

Within this framework, the president reaffirmed that cooperation and solidarity between countries of the South give this group the capability of achieving self-development and qualify it to make its voice heard in decisionmaking at the international level.

At the same time, President Ben Ali stressed the importance of developing dialogue and cooperation with the North in a way liable to bring about relations of solidarity among countries. He recalled in this context the appeal he had made from the UN rostrum for signing a contract of peace and progress which includes countries from both groups with the objective of consolidating means of cooperation among them and opening up promising prospects before humanity. [passage omitted]

President Receives U.S. Congressman Dymally

LD0305194391 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this morning Mr. Mervyn Dymally, chairman of the Congress Subcommittee for African Affairs, in the presence of Mr. Mohamed Jeri, minister director of the presidential office.

Following the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Robert Pelletreau, Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Tunis; the member of Congress stated his happiness at meeting the head of state, adding that his excellency the president expressed to him on the occasion Tunisia's feelings of friendship and appreciation for the United States. He pointed out, furthermore, that President Zine El Aidine Ben Ali was certain that the historical solidarity between the two countries will continue despite differences which might occur. Mr. Mervyn Dymally said: I am going back to the United States convinced that Tunisia will remain our friend.

Kuwait

Cheney Arrives, Meets With Prime Minister

LD0705142991 London KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Kuwait, 7 May (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Prime Minister, met with the U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and his accompanying delegation here today.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, defense minister; and Dhari al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

In a statement after the meeting, the U.S. defense secretary said: We "considered the security system in the Gulf region and the presence of U.S. forces. It is expected that some U.S. forces will remain in Kuwait to help."

He said that discussions are still under way to work out the details; that talks are currently taking place regarding the security system and the presence of the forces; and that the results of these talks will be announced in due course.

He said that cooperation between U.S. and Kuwait forces in logistics and other matters was discussed, and that there is understanding between the parties in this regard.

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney arrived here earlier from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the first stop on his tour of the region, where he had held talks and exchanged views with senior Saudi officials on the future security of the region.

Cheney's tour also includes the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman.

Communique Issued

LD0705185991 London KUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Kuwait, 7 May, (KUNA)—An official communique released here today indicated that the talks between Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and Kuwaiti prime minister, and U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney focused on ways to bolster cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the United States in all fields.

The communique said that Dick Cheney stressed to the prime minister "the United States' anxiousness and interest in developing bilateral relations with the State of Kuwait in security and military fields." The communique added that "it has been decided to continue the contacts in order to draw up a formula that will regulate ways and means of bolstering joint cooperation between the two countries."

Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah received in his office at Bayan Palace at 1230 today U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and the delegation accompanying him. His highness then held a meeting with the U.S. secretary of defense in the presence of Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, defense minister; and Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs. The meeting was attended on the U.S. side by Undersecretary for Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Central Command General Yeosock, Assistant to the Defense Secretary Admiral Lopez, Assistant Defense Secretary Williams, Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary Martel, and U.S. ambassador to the State of Kuwait Edward Gnehm.

The talks dealt with ways to reinforce cooperation between the state of Kuwait and the United States in all fields.

Amman Paper Reports Assassination Attempt

JN0705113791 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 5 May 91 p 8

[Excerpt] The Kuwaiti Government is carrying out secret interrogation of 14 Kuwaiti citizens accused of participating in an attempt to assassinate Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Ranking political sources told AKHIR KHABAR the outlines of the assassination attempt, which the Kuwaiti authorities are shrouding in secrecy. The sources say the attempt was carried out on 2 April and that U.S. intelligence in Kuwait disclosed the reports of the assassination attempt.

According to available information, the Kuwaiti authorities arrested 20 persons of various nationalities whom they accused of being involved in the assassination attempt and who were immediately executed.

The investigations revealed that these persons decided to assassinate the amir in response to the massacres the al-Sabah family had perpetrated against Arab citizens in Kuwait and that elements of the Kuwaiti opposition took part in the attempt in response to the government's refusal to establish democracy in the country.

The sources said that the plan was to assassinate the amir while he was touring the city on foot, and that explosives and machine guns to be used in the assassination had been impounded.

The culprits denied during interrogation that any foreign party was behind the attempt. They also refused to disclose how the assassination was to be carried out. A document found with the culprits, however, contained the name of Majdi Jasim. The culprits refused to give any details about this person, who has not been arrested. [passage omitted]

Oman

Cheney Arrives in Muscat for 'Short Visit'

JN0805142791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and his delegation arrived in Muscat this afternoon on a short visit to the Sultanate of Oman, as part of his current tour of the region.

On arrival at al-Sib Air Base, Cheney was received by Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs; and Sayf Bin-Hamad al-Battashi, secretary general of the Defense Ministry.

Security Arrangements Viewed

JN0805142991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Muscat, 8 May (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and his delegation in Muscat today.

They discussed current developments in the Gulf, post-Gulf war security arrangements, cooperation relations between the two countries, and issues of mutual concern.

Qatar

Dick Cheney Arrives in Doha 8 May

JN0805101191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 May 91

[Excerpt] Doha, 8 May (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the State of Qatar as part of his tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Telephones Bush on Health, Arab Situation

LD0705223791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, 7 May (SPA)—A telephone contact took place this evening between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and President George Bush.

During this contact, King Fahd congratulated the U.S. President on his recovery and the resumption of his functions following his recent temporary health problems and wished him good health. The two men also exchanged their viewpoints on the current situation on the Arab and international arenas.

United Arab Emirates

President, Dick Cheney Discuss Security Arrangements

JN0705193191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in Abu Dhabi this evening. Mr. Cheney is visiting the UAE.

They discussed the situation in the region and the security arrangements after the war to liberate Kuwait. They also discussed the relations of friendship between the two countries and ways to enhance them.

Conveys Bush's Message

JN0805063491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH)—President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a written message from U.S. President George Bush dealing with the region's developments, cooperation, and friendly relations between the two countries.

The message was conveyed by U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, who was received by His Highness Shaykh Zayid here this evening.

During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the region, security arrangements after the end of the war for the liberation of Kuwait, and bilateral relations.

Departs Abu Dhabi

JN0805074791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 May (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney left Abu Dhabi this morning after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates as part of his tour of a number of the region's states to discuss the situation after the liberation of Kuwait.

He was seen off by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, minister of defense affairs; Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; Staff Major General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy chief of staff; a number of senior Armed Forces officers; and U.S. Ambassador in Abu Dhabi Edward Walker.

Minister Views Ties With Pakistani Official

JN0705130791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH)—Sa'id Ghabbash, minister of economy and trade in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met this morning with Pakistani Production Minister Islam Nabi, who is currently visiting the UAE.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral economic and trade ties, ways of enhancing and developing them, prospects of improving bilateral cooperation, and the possibility of launching joint ventures, especially in the field of petroleum by-products and the petroleum industry.

Ghabbash paid tribute to the strong ties between the UAE and Pakistan. Likewise, he expressed the hope that this visit will result in enhnacing and developing these ties in the future.

It is to be recalled that the Pakistani production minister is currently visiting the UAE as part of a tour that will also take him to a number of the region's states to discuss the prospects of cooperation between Pakistan and these states.

Canadian Minister, Trade Delegation Arrive

JN0605202591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 May (WAKH)—Michael Wilson, Canadian minister of industry, science and technology, and international trade, arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening at the head of a large official trade delegation on a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates as part of a tour of several countries in the region.

He was received upon arrival by economy and trade minister Sa'id Ghabbash.

Ibrahim, Barzani Hold 'Another Round of Dialogue'

JN0705115891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1137 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—Another round of dialogue was held this morning between a government delegation led by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, and a delegation representing the allied Kurdish parties led by Mas'ud Barzani.

An official source told INA that the two delegations discussed the means of promoting positive dialogue to guarantee Iraq's unity and stability and that the dialogue was conducted in a positive atmosphere.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, Sa'di Mahdi Salih and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command members, and officials of the allied Kurdish parties participated in this round.

The first round of dialogue was held in Baghdad at the end of April. The RCC vice chairman; Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; and representatives of the Kurdish movements participated in that round of dialogue.

On 24 April, President Saddam Husayn received a delegation representing these movements, including Rasul Mamand, secretary general of the Socialist Party of Kurdistan, and Nechirvan Idris Barzani, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

At a news conference on 24 April, Talabani said an agreement in principle was reached to consolidate Iraq's national unity based on the historic March 1970 agreement.

SAIRI Spokesman Refuses Talks With Saddam

NC0705154891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1435 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has firmly dismissed the possibility of any meeting between the Islamic opposition and Saddam.

Commenting on attempts made by Saddam's regime in this regard, the spokesman stressed SAIRI's firm stand in refusing to negotiate with Saddam under any circumstances.

The spokesman disclosed for the first time that Saddam has informed some Iraqi figures, through unspecified channels, that he is willing to lower the curtain once and for all on what he termed his differences with it [Islamic opposition] and to share power with it.

Reaffirming its stand, the SAIRI spokemsan stated: We refuse even to think of holding a dialogue with Saddam, whose hands are stained with the blood of Iraqis, Kuwaitis, and Iranians.

Saddam Addresses Babil on 'Sabotage' Acts

JN0705204191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that the bestial and immoral crimes perpetrated by the saboteurs against the sons of our people are intended to shake the principles which everyone believes in and affect the morale of the Iraqi people. In an address to government and party officials, dignitaries of al-Hillah, and tribal chieftains in Babil Governorate today, his excellency said: When the enemies saw that we became united, they continued to harm us in order to undermine us morally—not physically.

In his analysis of the motives of the enemies in sparking the rioting and destructive acts through infiltrators and agents, the president added: The enemies wanted to weaken the state of awakening, cohesion, fraternity, and unity, and to destroy what the warplanes could not reach, to hurt us deeply.

President Saddam Husayn noted that the saboteurs premeditatedly committed ugly crimes, including rape. He affirmed that these acts were basically directed against every honorable Iraqi, not against women alone, because the Iraqis consider the honor of women dearer than everything, and a sacred thing in religious belief.

His excellency stressed that the honorable principles we believe in as men and as Iraqis are not shaken in our minds, or in the message we believe in as one people.

He added that the good ones are the pillars of this people, and that the unity which we make up as people and leadership can become like a large tent covering all of Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn examined the details of the sabotage perpetrated by the criminals which targeted citizen's possessions and public service departments. He studied the measures being taken by the authorities in cooperation with citizens in the governorate to restore normal life and progress and ensure stability.

Travel Restrictions on Industrialists To End

JN0705183991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—It was declared here today that restrictions imposed on the travel of Iraqi industrialists abroad have been lifted. A source at the Iraqi Industries Union told INA that this decision is aimed at enabling the owners of private factories to import raw materials for their enterprises once a year, without having to supply the foreign exchange.

Benefiting from this decision, which will come into effect as of mid-May, will be the owners of ventures or one of their partners and authorized managers of joint stock companies.

It is noteworthy that President Saddam Husayn had ordered that the restrictions imposed on the travel of

Iraqis abroad be lifted. He directed the Council of Ministers to draft the instructions and regulations dealing with this process.

Paper Reports Request To Postpone Reparations

JN0705153891 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 May 91 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] The UN committee assigned to implement sanctions against Iraq has decided that individual governments can decide whether to release Iraqi assets to enable the Iraqi Government buy foodstuffs and humanitarian supplies.

Iraq last month called for the release of $1 billion frozen in Britain, the United States, Switzerland, and Japan.

The committee postponed for the second time a decision on Iraq's request to sell $1 billion worth of oil to enable it to purchase foodstuffs.

UN sources said the Security Council will meet this week to determine the percentage to be cut from Iraq's oil revenues as reparations that must be paid to the injured parties, as stipulated by the unjust UN resolutions [on war reparations].

UN sources said that in a letter to the UN secretary general, Iraq asked the United Nations to postpone payment of any reparations for five years.

Ambassador to U.S. Leaves Vienna for Canada

AU0705134791 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 7 May 91 p 2

[Report by Andreas Schwarz: "Iraq's Ambassador to the United States Defected Via Austria"]

[Text] Vienna—The defection of Baghdad's ambassador to the United States, which has been repeatedly denied by Iraq, is practically certain. After having stayed in Vienna for more than two months, Muhammad al-Mashat left for Canada and has reportedly settled there. Al-Mashat, who was an Iraqi envoy to Austria for many years, had been recalled from Washington by the end of January, several days following the outbreak of the war. On his way back, the diplomat had a stopover in Vienna. The official reason given by him: His wife was sick and wanted to be treated in a Vienna hospital.

Rumors at that time on al-Mashat's defection were denied by the Iraqi Embassy where the diplomat presented himself jointly with the present Iraqi ambassador, Rahim al-Kital. The embassy said that al- Mashat, who refused to make any comment, did not consider defecting and was looking forward to going back to his country.

Diplomatic circles in Vienna said, however, that after a brief checkup in the hospital, his wife was well again. Nonetheless, al-Mashat had his diplomatic visa renewed several times. Rumors were spread long ago that the ambassador did not want to go back (and after such a long time, probably could not go back).

It has become known now that the diplomat left Austria for Canada at the end of March.

Envoy to Arab League Presents Credentials

JN0705125191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1128 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm presented his credentials today to acting Arab League Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad as Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed items on the agenda of the Arab League's 95th session scheduled to be held in Cairo on 15 May. They also discussed latest developments in the Arab arena.

Missing CBS Journalists Found, Returned to Baghdad

NC0805093191 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, May 8 (AFP)—Three missing journalists from the U.S. television network CBS have been found safe and sound and returned to Baghdad Wednesday.

The journalists —Americans Bud Mills and Barry Severson and Briton Richard Parrot—were reported missing after they entered Iraq from Kuwait.

They were brought Wednesday to the press center of the Iraqi Ministry of Information where foreign press photographers and television cameramen took pictures of them.

Minister Inaugurates Al-Samawah Floating Bridge

JN0705144491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1207 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—The floating iron bridge built by the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction in al-Samawah, capital city of al-Muthanna Governorate, was inaugurated today.

Minister of Housing and Reconstruction Mahmud Dhiyab inaugurated the bridge, which is 160 meters long including anchors and 9.5 meters wide.

Construction of another floating bridge in al-Muthanna Governorate soon will start on the Euphrates in al-Majd subdistrict. The al-Khadr district's concrete bridge, bombarded by U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic forces, also will be repaired soon.

Al-Dawrah Restores Prewar Oil Output Capacity

JN0705124991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1126 GMT 7 may 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—The Oil Ministry announced today that the second phase of the reconstruction of the al-Dawrah refinery has been completed. With the completion of this phase, the refining capacity prior to the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression has been restored.

Kamil Ja'far, director general of the al-Dawrah refinery, told INA that the amounts of gasoline and gas oil produced will be more than they were when restrictions on the distribution of these two materials were lifted. Thus, the amounts pumped to distribution outlets will be increased, he said.

He added that during the next week the second and last supplementary unit for removing the unusual smell of gasoline will be operated. The first supplementary unit began operations last week.

Kurdistan Council Meets, Discusses Regional Work

JN0805103391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0958 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Irbil, 8 May (INA)—During its meeting today, the Kurdistan Autonomous Region Executive Council discussed progress in the projects of the region's departments, and the maintenance and restoration work on schools and health establishments.

During the meeting, which was chaired by Executive Council Chairman Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, it was decided to increase the visits by the secretaries general to the region's governorates to follow up the implementation of projects and the services rendered to the citizens, and to expedite the reorganization of the administrative structures of the region's departments and institutions.

Talabani Comments on Talks With Regime on Accord

PM0305123591 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 1 May 91

[Interview with Kurdish delegation leader Jalal Talabani in Iraq by Jeremy Paxman in London—recorded; from the "Newsnight" program]

[Text] [Paxman] On a ropy link to his base in the mountains, I spoke to Jalal Talabani, who outlined the bones of the agreement. He began with the most dramatic news of all: That effectively Saddam Husayn had agreed to the end of his dictatorship.

[Talabani] The Iraqi delegation agreed to free elections for all parties and for multiparty life in Iraq.

[Paxman] Tonight, he said he achieved much of what he wanted by negotiation where he couldn't succeed by force.

[Talabani] A new, freely elected parliament will be instead of all other bodies.

[Paxman] Mr. Talabani now says he's secured the future of all those detained by the regime after the uprisings. Is there to be an amnesty for all political prisoners including both Kurdish prisoners and Shiite prisoners?

[Talabani] We asked for a general amnesty towards all Iraqi prisoners and in principle they agreed.

[Paxman] He told me that although he'd been filmed meeting Saddam, the negotiations themselves had been with an Iraqi delegation that didn't include the president himself. He said there'd be further talks led by Mas'ud Barzani early next week. He also said agreement had already been reached to abolish the Revolution Command Council and to end the Arabization of Iraqi Kurdistan. But he said he wanted further negotiation with the Iraqis on the question of international guarantees for the agreement, which he said should come from the United States and the United Nations. I asked him about the future of Kirkuk, the oil-producing city where many of the refugees come from. He said there'd been no agreement on that, but that the rebels still regarded it as part of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Newspaper Says Kurds Spurning Refugee Camps

JN0705190491 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 5 May 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "This Is the Response of our Kurdish People to the Tripartite Aggression and the Camps of Hypocrisy"]

[Text] Despite all the rancorous imperialist attempts led by the British-U.S.-French trio to promote the issue of the Kurdish refugees as a way to implement the rest of the scheme against Iraq, the popular response of our Kurdish people, represented by their refusal to join the camps, emerges as a new link in the rejection of all forms of imperialist plotting against nations.

The Kurdish citizens, who have returned to their towns and villages, have affirmed through their refusal to join these camps that rancorous imperialism has again fallen into the trap of its own stupidity when it thought it could bargain over national feelings and affiliation to Iraqi territory. This was not only the result of the conspiratorial trio's miscalculations, but the result of the national and human gallantry and faithfulness of the sons of our Kurdish people. Our Kurdish people have rejected the dirty game that has become the preoccupation of Iraq's enemies and those who harbor hatred against its awakening and unity—in spite of all the attractions which the enemies are using to make their rancor defeat human sentiments and affiliations toward Iraq.

What has been admitted by the enemies—before others—regarding the Kurdish citizens' refusal to join the camps have revealed a clear fact which the enemies always tried to obfuscate. The fact is that the Iraqi citizen will always remain indebted to his land. And this

is a link between the facts of affiliation, which appear now, and the facts of history, when the sons of our Kurdish people stood up at the beginning of this century to resist the British presence in Iraq. Today is very similar to yesterday.

The calls of those that harbor rancor against Iraq to play the game of camps—which is a blatant interference in Iraq's affairs—were bubbles that burst with the first response to the leadership's decision and with the return of the Kurdish citizens to their homes and villages after the end of the sedition and the fall of the enemies' plot aimed at fragmenting and destroying Iraq.

It seems that the rancorous trio has forgotten its colonialist history in the region at a time when the sons of our people have not forgotten this bloody history, during which it imposed colonialist hegemony over our state for a period in which it plundered our country's wealth before we were able to stand up as an independent state that could express itself and its free authority.

Perhaps this fact prompted the Britons, Americans, and French to play the game of pulling someone else's legs in an attempt to return to their black rancor and old colonialism of the past. The capability and awareness of our Kurdish people—thanks to the 17-30 July revolution—have thwarted this dirty attempt, or, rather, have made it rebound in disappointment for those accustomed to fishing in troubled water while disregarding peoples' feelings and affiliations. This was not excluded from the record of this hateful trio's behavior toward Iraq and its sons.

Iraqis—Arabs and Kurds—have not yet forgotten what the aircraft of Bush, Mitterand, and Major did when they targeted all that is vital on the land of Iraq, whether north, south, or center. Perhaps this memory, which will never be forgotten, will bury not only the game of camps, but also any game the evildoers might play while wearing masks of sympathy and humanity that were exposed after their aggression on Iraq and their disgraceful positions toward the sons of our nation everywhere.

The agreement signed between the United Nations and Iraq on the issue of Kurdish refugees and facilitating their return was the only solution. Meanwhile, this agreement revealed the truth about those who undertake international legitimacy and then try to stab it in the back at the first opportunity. This is confirmed by the camps of the conspirators against Iraq, who wanted it to be a poisonous dagger embedded in the heart of the United Nations. Thus, they persist in their oppression and tampering with human rights, whose banners they have long falsely raised for their evil plans against not only Iraq, but also all nations and independent and free countries on earth.

The Kurds' decision to return to their cities and homes and their categorical rejection of the temptations of the colonialist West, led by the hateful trio, have revealed to the entire world a new truth about the Iraqis' belief and honor in their affiliation, which has become a response to all evil attempts and provocations by the aggressors to prevent them from returning.

The truth is uncovered. Those who play the game of the camps have no choice but to leave, because Iraqi nationalism is a great honor and because the colonialist maneuvers are nothing new to a people who have resisted and defeated colonialism.

Paper Views 'Strong Ties' Between Saddam, People

JN0805070091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that Iraq's enemies have failed to affect the Iraqi people's awareness and will to adhere to President Saddam Husayn's leadership, and that the Iraqi people have foiled the enemies' evil wagering on this.

In the editorial, devoted to commenting on President Saddam Husayn's meetings with the masses in several Iraqi cities and villages, the paper notes that these intimate meetings between the leader and the masses have clearly proven that the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression has failed to achieve one of its major objectives; namely, to understand the strong ties between the leader and the people.

AL-THAWRAH says: The sentiments of pride, allegiance, and confidence the masses of our people expressed in Saddam Husayn's national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian approach prove the genuineness, principled position, and growing political awareness of these people.

The paper notes this awareness was not affected by the cheap psychological war and propaganda campaigns that were and are being launched by the imperialist and Zionist circles to undermine the historic leader's position and to harm him.

The paper asserts that the Iraqi sons' noble, national and pan- Arab sentiments and their unlimited readiness to defend great Iraq and the glorious July Revolution and its achievements constitute the true position of all the sons of Iraq in all their cities and villages. The best proof of this is that the masses of the people have played a remarkable role in quelling the blind sedition and acts of sabotage that were carried out by a misguided group of agent mobs.

U.S.-UK 'Plan' Seeks 'Foothold' in Kurdistan

JN0805091891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0638 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has denounced the suspect U.S.-British plan to set up camps for Kurdish evacuees.

In an article published today under the headline "The Establishment of Camps Is a U.S. Game," the paper

says: Despite the extensive hostile media pressure against the Iraqi people in general and the sons of Kurdistan in particular, pressure aimed at propagating the suspect U.S.-British plan to establish camps for Kurdish evacuees, hundreds of thousands of them have flowed across mountains, valleys, and roads toward their homes, thus rejecting the new U.S. game that is aimed against great Iraq's security and stability.

The paper adds: Through their new plan, the Americans, along with their henchmen in the "evil coalition", seek to gain a foothold on Iraq's territory in Kurdistan, and to create a humanitarian cover for this action, taking into consideration that these sides are far removed from humanitarianism and relief aid concepts.

The paper says: The Americans and the evil coalition want to drag the sons of Kurdistan from their cities and villages to displace them, deprive them of their homes, land, and even the air they breathe, to make them wander the world, and live on the morsels of others.

The paper notes that what the Americans want to impose in Kurdistan cannot be achieved, for the Kurds will be the first to reject it, and because they are proud of being a dear part of a genuine and deep-rooted people, the great Iraqi people. Since the early stages of Islam and until now, Arab and Kurdish blood has mixed in the most honorable battles that have taken place on this land in defense of noble principles.

The paper adds: The revolution in Iraq, under the leadership of its faithful son President Saddam Husayn, has secured all the requirements of a free and honorable life for its Kurdish sons. It is also determined to secure a normal and prosperous life for them in a democratic, free, and pluralistic atmosphere.

The paper refers to the food that is sent by some states. It says: The food that is brought to the Kurdish evacuees by the forces that allied themselves against our people does not bring honor to those who bring it, because although what they bring is no more than morsels, their allies steal it to sell again to the Kurdish evacuees.

Concluding, the paper says: The aggressive plan against our people is exposed and clear, and cannot easily deceive our people as the aggressors believe. Everyday, our Kurdish people prove that they are part of Iraq, that they live with and for Iraq, and that the bright future is Iraq, the tent of the Arabs and Kurds. However, the aliens and the rancorous and treacherous ones will only reap failure and lowliness.

Regime Helicopters Limited to 'Military Missions'

NC0705153391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1435 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] The regime has begun to curtail its helicopter flights over the southern region after our valiant heroes shot one down with antiaircraft fire over the area of al-Qurnah, Shatt al-'Arab region on Wednesday.

According to a report we received, the helicopter flights are now confined to basic military missions, after having been used in patrols for monitoring the military movement of our revolutionaries in the area.

Revolutionaries Burn Military Vehicle, Kill Seven

NC0705153991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1435 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] In their latest operation, our heroic revolutionaries destroyed a military command vehicle of the regime's troops. Our sources report that our revolutionaries laid in ambush on the (al-Barna-Qal'at Salih) road. When the vehicle came within firing range, the revolutionaries fired RPG's at it, burning it and killing seven military personnel riding in it, including a captain. The vehicle was still on fire while the revolutionaries returned safely to base, God willing.

Sharon Presents Plan for Expansion of Jerusalem

TA0805094991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 May 91 pp 1, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Bina Barzel]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] According to Minister Ari'el Sharon's plan, which was presented to a group of Knesset members during a tour of Jerusalem and its environs yesterday, a ring of settlements, neighborhoods, and satellite towns linked by a network of roads would be established around Jerusalem. The purpose of the plan is to strengthen and enhance Jerusalem's security and to uphold its Jewish nature.

Within the city of Jerusalem proper, the ring mentioned by Sharon includes the neighborhoods of Gilo, Pisgat Ze'ev, Neve Ya'aqov, Giv'at Ze'ev, Ramot, and the planned neighborhood of Har Homa.

The larger ring includes the Jewish settlements in Gush 'Etzyon to the south, the settlements in the Ramallah area to the north, and Ma'ale Adumim to the east. A planned road would link this bloc to the Modi'in highway. The road would link Giv'at Ze'ev and Pisgat Ze'ev, continuing toward Ma'ale Adumim and southward. Bypass roads would be paved between Jerusalem and its surrounding neighborhoods and satellite towns to enhance the link between them and their continuity. A total of 36,000 housing units are planned. The Construction and Housing Ministry has already begun working to implement the plan. [passage omitted]

Sharon's goal is to bring the population of Jerusalem and its environs to 1 million Jews.

Ma'ale Adumim was the first leg of yesterday's tour. The place seemed to be receiving special attention from the Construction and Housing Ministry. Some 3,000 new housing units are being built, with plans to complete part of them within a year, and a new peripheral road is being paved. [passage omitted]

[A related report by Yehuda Golan and Tzvi Lavi on page A6 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 8 May quotes Sharon as saying: "This visit had been planned as far back as three weeks ago. Consequently, it is clearly not a message to Baker. Please, do not ask me about Baker." During the tour, Sharon noted that "60,000 Jews, mostly young Israeli families—not immigrants—would join settlements in Judaea and Samaria in the coming year. Some 15,000 houses are being built for them. This figure does not include Jerusalem."]

Comments on Expanding Jewish Population

TA0705191291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has been taking action to establish a contiguous territorial and demographic strip stretching between Jerusalem's municipal area of jurisdiction and adjacent satellite towns such as Ma'ale Adumim. Minister Sharon said that he believes the Cabinet will not now be able to officially expand the city's boundaries and that it is impossible to annex additional areas to it. Nevertheless, the dense construction will in effect expand Jerusalem. Minister Sharon made this plain during a tour of northeastern Jerusalem and Samaria, along with the Knesset members [MK's] who form the so-called Eretz Yisra'el Front. Our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports:

[Begin Ahime'ir recording] If Jerusalem cannot be expanded, then Ma'ale Adumim will stretch all the way to Jerusalem, thereby creating one uninterrupted territorial, and demographically Jewish, area. Minister Sharon advocates enlarging Jerusalem eastward rather than westward.

Several thousand additional housing units are being built in Ma'ale Adumim, Rina Zamir, the Construction and Housing Ministry's official in charge of the Jerusalem district, explained in great detail to the MK's.

[Zamir] The most important thing, from our standpoint, is a bypass road around Ma'ale Adumim. The budget has already been earmarked for it and work on it will begin soon. We can already see the initial groundwork for it.

[Ahime'ir] There has been an intense building boom also in Pisgat Ze'ev, which is included in the Jerusalem municipal area of jurisdiction, and which will also help beef up the dense territorial stretch.

[Sharon] It is very important for defending Jerusalem, maintaining its integrity, and preserving it forever as the capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. This is what we have been dealing with.

[Ahime'ir] As for the settlements across the Green Line:

[Sharon] This is actually what we are currently doing: First of all, to massively increase the Jewish population in all the areas where they reside, and strengthen the Jewish hold over these areas, as I am showing you on this map. By that I mean that in Janin, Nabulus, Ramallah, Hebron and their environs—where 550,000 Arabs reside.

[Ahime'ir] Sharon's intention is to have many settlements along the traffic axes. The population in the smaller settlements, he said, has doubled. Mobile homes have already been stationed in Ari'el. Minister Sharon says that the number of immigrants who settled in the territories constitutes approximately 1 percent of the overall scope of aliyah over the past 18 months, namely close to 3,000.

Would you be prepared to comment on the harsh criticism of you yesterday at the Knesset plenum, I asked Sharon.

[Sharon] I would not like to refer to it. I have said what I had to say. I am not in the habit of addressing inconsequential matters. [end recording]

Shamir Calls Settlement 'Essence' of Conflict

TA0805042591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said the settlement issue is the essence of the conflict and will therefore be a subject for negotiations. The prime minister was speaking to reporters in Jerusalem last night. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The prime minister was answering reporters' questions about the approaching visits of Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh and U.S. Secretary of State Baker when he was asked about the settlement issue and dropped what sounded like a bombshell.

[Shamir] This is the essence of the conflict and we are going to resolve the conflict. Therefore, it will be a subject for negotiation.

[Katzenell] I asked Prime Minister Shamir if he really meant that the settlement issue was up for negotiation.

[Shamir] It is a part of the essence of the conflict. It's the question of territory, to whom this land belongs—and this is the object of negotiations. And, therefore, we have to negotiate. This would be the process.

[Katzenell] Shamir would not elaborate further, but knowing his positions and policy it will be very unwise to believe that he would agree to a halt in settlement activity or even restriction of it during the current talks on the convening of a regional conference. He probably meant that at some stage in the negotiations—probably a very advanced stage, when a permanent settlement is being negotiated—the question of sovereignty will have to be discussed. And then, so Likud ideologists have always said, Israel will propose that Israeli sovereignty be extended to the whole of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. In other words, even then the settlement activity will continue. [end recording]

2,000-House Extension Planned in Qarney Shomron

TA0505065491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 May 91 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpt] Bulldozers have laid the foundations for an extension to the Samaria settlement of Qarney Shomron in preparation for 2,000 housing units, a sign at the site says.

The new neighborhood is several hundred meters east of Qarney Shomron and separated from it by a wadi, visitors there reported. Qarney Shomron has a separate industrial area about equidistant from the old settlement and the planned new neighborhood. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Upcoming Bessmertnykh Visit

Soviet Adviser Interviewed

TA0705121791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 7 May 91

[Report on telephone interview with Vitaliy Churkin, adviser to Soviet President Gorbachev, by Gid'on Remez on 7 May—recorded; interview conducted in English with Remez translating Churkin remarks into Hebrew]

[Text] [Remez] We must first of all note the fact that this interview actually took place. Since assuming his post, Churkin has refrained from, even avoided, giving an interview to Qol Yisra'el. Today, on the other hand, he expressed great eagerness and even waited for our return call after our first connection proved faulty. Either the Soviets want to dampen the expectations created yesterday by Gorbachev's adviser Mr. Grachev [name and title as heard], or they want to magnify the surprise effect if they do indeed announce the renewal of relations.

Churkin started off with the usual generalizations. This visit will incorporate efforts to further the peace process. The Soviet Union has already held contacts with all the parties and agreed with U.S. Secretary of State Baker on the convocation of a peace conference—in exactly those words, without the qualifier of regional or international. We, however, said that Israel is making the conference conditional on the resumption of diplomatic relations. Let us now ask the $64,000 question: Yes or no?

[Churkin] Well, it is a $64,000 question. [laughing] First, I would not use the word condition. As I say, of course, we have been developing our relations with Israel, and the question of further steps is there; but in terms of diplomatic relations, we are thinking about them as we look to the future progress of the Middle East settlement process. So, I would not necessarily expect that at this trip we will have an announcement of diplomatic relations with Israel.

[Remez] Then, if we agree not to discuss Israel's conditions, what about the Soviet conditions? We Israelis always presented the resumption of diplomatic relations as a precondition to holding the conference.

[Churkin] I do not think there is much logic or much point for Israel to create additional problems where they do not necessarily exist. I do not want to draw any specific parallels between this effort to convene a peace conference on the Middle East and the past conference which took place back in 1973 or 1974 in Geneva. There, you will recall, the Soviet Union and the United States were co-chairmen at a time when the Soviet Union did not even have consular relations with Israel.

[Remez] To summarize, we asked whether Bessmertnykh would meet Yasir 'Arafat as just reported.

[Churkin] As of now, my impression is that it is unlikely that in the course of our minister's tour of....

[Remez, interrupting] Bessmertnykh, however, is interested in meeting Yasir 'Arafat and will do so in the near future. [end recording]

Consul in Moscow Comments

TA0705131491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 May 91 p A3

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] "We welcome all good surprises, but I do not know anything about it," Arye Levin, Israel's consul in Moscow, said last night in response to reports about the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR during Bessmertnykh's visit to Jerusalem at the end of the week.

In a telephone conversation, Levin said: "As far as we know, the visit will concentrate on furthering the peace process. In my view, the Soviets do not have a defined peace plan. The Soviet foreign minister's trip is aimed at feeling things out and has historical value because it is unprecedented. We do not expect relations between the two countries to be raised during this visit, but we must say that the ties have improved remarkably over the past two years."

Arens: Arms Issues To Be Raised

TA0705155191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that the Israeli Government will raise the question of the arms race in the Middle East and Soviet arms sales to Syria in the talks with the Soviet foreign minister. After all, Arens said the Soviet Union used to be the main supplier of arms to this region. He said he hoped the Soviet Union would be prepared to bring pressure to bear on North Korea on the sale of modified Scud-C missiles to Syria.

Shamir Will Reject PLO Involvement

TA0805053391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 8 May 91

[Report by Yaron Enosh]

[Text] Up to this moment the Prime Minister's Office has received no official notice or message on the expected resumption of relations with the Soviet Union. Yitzhaq Shamir is busy preparing for his meeting this Friday [10 May] with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. The prime minister noted that the Soviet Union certainly has an important role to play in the regional peace process. Shamir made it clear, however, that Israel would stick to its stated positions and reject any PLO involvement in the process. The prime minister added that he would also make that matter clear to Bessmertnykh.

[Begin Shamir recording] We will, of course, listen to whatever he has to say. I do not think, however, that any change in our position on the PLO is possible. He may have some doubts on that matter, but he is familiar with our position and will not be suprised. [end recording]

Sources in Jerusalem expect the issue of relations between the two countries to be discussed during the meeting, as well as the establishment of direct flights carrying immigrants from Moscow to Israel. However, their talks will mainly concentrate on the peace process. The Soviet Union has already made it clear that its foreign minister is not bringing any alternative plan to that of U.S. Secretary of State Baker, but only some ideas. Baker himself is scheduled to arrive in Israel again within several days, as part of his tour of the region. This will be his fourth trip in the last few weeks as part of another U.S. effort to further the contacts for convening a regional conference. Yitzhaq Shamir regards this as proof that the pessimism voiced by the media, especially in Washington, is unwarranted.

[Begin Shamir recording] I think the very fact that he is coming proves the lie in all those leaks. From the very beginning I said that he would continue to pursue the process, and we had no doubt that this would indeed be the case. There is no reason to stop the process. [end recording]

The prime minister continued in this optimistic vein when discussing the internal tensions in the government and the coalition. Shamir believes that when the process eventually moves forward, Israel will present a unified stance, a stance, Shamir adds, that exists anyway.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 8 May in report by Bill Hutman on pages 1 and 10 adds: "Shamir hinted that Israel would agree to Soviet participation in the peace process only if the USSR first agreed to renew relations, broken off in 1967. 'If the Soviets are willing to play a role in the process, they have to be with us in such a relationship that would enable us to receive them as a major player in the process.'" The report adds: "Shamir called the international conference proposal a 'means for evading responsibility,' and said Israel wants 'meaningful, direct talks with the Arab governments.'

["We favor a 'two-track approach, direct talks with the Arab governments and co-existence with the Palestinian Arabs,' Shamir said.

["He discounted the possibility the Americans and Soviets would try to pressure Israel into making concessions. 'I don't think there is anybody that thinks there is a possibility to impose anything on Israel.'"]

Egyptian Envoy: Immigration 'Domestic Affair'

TA0505104191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 May 91 p 2

[Report by Pazit Rabina]

[Text] In an interview published in the Friday supplement of the Russian-language social-cultural-artistic newspaper BEG-VRYEMENI, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni was asked whether he shares the anxiety over the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Basyuni replied that immigration is a domestic Israeli affair and that Egypt only objects to settling those immigrants in the territories.

"Imagine that you had a garden," Basyuni said, "and somebody built a cabin in it and had territorial demands. What would you do in such a case? You would sue him, but you would not change anything until the trial. Please note that I am trying very hard not to use the words 'the occupied territories.' I prefer to call them territories or disputed territories.

"As long as the arbitration is in progress I do not want to do anything that might change the demographic balance in those areas. Before their fate is decided as part of some global resolution, the demographic balance should not be changed. After a comprehensive peace agreement, however, the question of the Soviet immigrants could be solved in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Every country has its own immigration laws, and so does Israel. The future authorities in the territories, which are a matter of controversy at the moment, may decide to admit some of the Soviet immigrants. I do not know the identity of those authorities, but in principle, every person has the right to live wherever he wants, including in the Middle East, if that does not conflict with the immigration policy of the particular country," Basyuni stated.

Egypt Not To Ask Palestinians To Stop Violence

TA0805043391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Egypt recently refused an Israeli request that Cairo issue an appeal to the Palestinians to stop the violence so that the political process can succeed. Yisra'el Me'iri, an Israeli journalist in Cairo, says that Egypt also spurned an Israeli appeal to raise funds in Arab countries for the Palestinians in the territories.

In a message to Egypt's President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Shamir also raised the issue of full implementation of the existing agreements between Egypt and Israel on cooperation and the normalization of relations.

In her reply, Egypt stated that it was the Israeli position that was blocking every attempt to draw the two countries closer together. There had to be progress toward peace before Israel's requests to Egypt could be met.

Dutch Foreign Minister Winds Up Talks

TA0705154991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Upon leaving Israel, the Dutch foreign minister said that Israel's leaders did not reject the notion of including the EC in the peace process. The question will be raised again in the talks to be held with Baker, who favors such a development, Minister Hans van den Broek pointed out.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that speaking in a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, the visitor said he hoped new openings for peace and for direct talks in the region would develop.

Says Syria Agrees to Regional Meeting

TA0805092791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 May 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Syria does not demand an international conference and is willing to hold peace talks with Israel within a regional conference attended by the superpowers and a representative of the UN secretary general, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek reported in his talks in Jerusalem over the past two days. [passage omitted]

Van den Broek's report corroborates the information received from Washington in the last few days that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is encouraged by Syria's position. Baker will be resuming his shuttle mission based on the U.S. assessment that even if Syria does not take part in the conference it will not stand in the way of other Arab countries—Jordan in particular—engaging in peace talks with Israel.

The Dutch foreign minister quoted Syria's top officials, who had told him that they do not insist on an international conference in one format or another and that Syria does not object to a regional conference. Moreover, Damascus does not demand that this conference convene under UN auspices and would be satisfied with the presence of a UN representative. Syria's leaders told the Dutch foreign minister that "obviously, peace is made with an existing entity." That statement, according to van den Broek, represents a Syrian attempt to assert its recognition of Israel's existence. [passage omitted]

UK Minister Hogg Tours Gaza Refugee Camps

TA0705181991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in English 1520 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] A visiting British minister toured a Palestinian refugee camp in the Gaza Strip today. Douglas Hogg, minister of state for foreign affairs, said Britain would try to help the refugee families in the camps. He gave no details. Hogg is on a three-day visit which will include talks with Israeli officials.

Chief of Staff Details IDF Budget Cuts

TA0805101191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 May 91 p 7

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, the chief of staff, yesterday for the first time divulged his defense and security doctrine to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The message was clear and simple: "Anything that does not shoot, or directly help in shooting, will be cut." [passage omitted]

Here are several components of the chief of staff's security and defense policy, as he explained it yesterday during the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's session:

—Syria has submitted to the USSR large orders for arms. The East Bloc is currently motivated by economic concerns, and the Syrians, who have the money to spend, have apparently successfully concluded their purchases.

—The Gulf war has indeed given Israel a respite, of perhaps two years, from the Iraqi threat. The threat, however, has not been removed. New threats have been created. In the territories, the working assumption is that the intifadah will continue. The intifadah

does not constitute a threat to Israel's security, but it poses a continuous threat to the safety of its citizens.

—Civil defense: Huge sums cannot be invested in building air raid shelters, as the money simply does not exist. Funds will be invested in sophisticated early warning systems. The funding of civil defense should also be shared by civilian ministries such as the Interior Ministry.

Baraq warned that the changes taking place in the Arab world sometimes outpace our assessments. We must be prepared for quick changes in all scenarios: a rapid rebuilding of the Iraqi Army or an Iraqi-Syrian pact. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must be ready for any change and for any potential threat. Treasury officials, Baraq claimed, are not always willing to grant us that possibility.

The chief of staff stressed that the IDF cannot absorb a cut of 400 million shekels in its budget. On the contrary, it needs more money now. Therefore, Baraq said, the IDF must make cuts in everything that does not directly have bearing on the battlefield of the future. It will be impossible to convince a young man in a tank that some piece of equipment must be removed from his battle gear, if this or that military magazine continues to be published. The cutbacks must be across the board, even in things that have a certain value.

Baraq raised several ideas to resolve the financial difficulties: for instance, sending unemployed persons to guard military installations or to serve in the police. If it is necessary to create new sources of employment, then we can produce additional provisions and supplies to place at the army's disposal in the future, thereby achieving a double objective: employment and security. [passage omitted]

Defense Adviser: Hizballah Steps Up Attacks

TA0305071691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 May 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Before the Air Force attack last night, the defense minister's media adviser said that the Palestinian and Shiite terrorist organizations continue to launch armed operations against Israel from southern Lebanon. The declarations on the militias disarming has not changed the terrorist threat from the Lebanese border. These organizations make weekly attempts to infiltrate Israel in order to murder Israelis. Not only have these organizations failed to disarm or cease attacks against Israel, official Lebanese figures still make public statements implying that they differentiate between the weapons of Palestinian terrorist organizations and those of the Lebanese militias.

Dani Nave added that the Hizballah has even stepped up its activities in areas close to Israel. Under the auspices of the recent arrangements in Lebanon, Hizballah men are gradually returning to their villages south of the al-Litani River and building an infrastructure for terrorist attacks on Israel.

Cabinet Approves Economic Measures

TA0605094391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 May 91 p 1

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In yesterday's five-hour cabinet meeting, as tear gas used by the police against Druse demonstrators floated into the meeting, the ministers approved an eclectic list of economic measures put forward by [Finance Minister] Moda'i, two of which are related to housing.

Moda'i's proposals aimed at boosting employment, originally included in the list—such as changing minimum wage laws, and severing the link between public sector and private sector wages—were put aside for moment, to be discussed with the Histadrut as part of the "social treaty."

The finance minister's bid to impose value-added-tax on tourist services, which would have brought in NIS [New Israeli Shekel] 60-70 million per year to state coffers was voted down, but may come up for reconsideration in December.

The economic measures approved by the cabinet yesterday include:

—Businesses that own controlling shares in companies traded on the stock exchange will now be required to pay capital-gains tax on their real profit when selling the shares. Private citizens who hold controlling shares will not be affected. The change is expected to bring in NIS 110 million in revenue.

—Purchase tax on apartments in development towns, which is now 0.5 percent, will be cancelled, making it even less expensive to buy apartments in these areas.

—Capital-gains tax on residences will be completely eliminated at least until the end of 1994. Until now, someone who sells an apartment and has already sold one during the previous four years is required to pay capital gains tax of 12.5 percent to 30 percent of the real profit on the transaction.

—A special tax on water, designed to cut water usage was referred to a ministerial subcommittee for further discussion.

—Special allocations for religious and secular institutions, which are distributed without objective criteria, were banned.

Paper Optimistic About Baker's Fourth Tour

JN0705092291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
7 May 91 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Will It Be Baker's Last Tour?"]

[Text] For U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to return to the Middle East to continue his efforts to convene a regional peace conference evokes optimism and makes one believe that Washington has sufficient determination to break the current vicious circle of stalemate.

What particularly heartens us and reinforces our happiness about this latest regional tour, which Baker said he will make by the end of this week is that it will coincide with another tour by Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the first of its kind to the region. What adds special significance to this is that the U.S. secretary and the Soviet minister will meet in the region to coordinate diplomatic efforts to convene the desired Middle East peace conference.

The special significance of Baker's fourth tour lies in the fact that it is not a mere fact-finding mission designed to allow him to explore the views of the parties concerned, as this objective has been achieved in Baker's previous three tours during which he explored the opinions, positions, views, and different conceptions of the parties concerned.

In light of this, we expect that Baker's coming tour, which will coincide with Bessmertnykh's tour, will produce an agreement among the United States, the USSR, and the European states on the terms for the desired Middle East peace, based on the principles of international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions, which alone are capable of achieving a just, balanced, and durable peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

When we call for putting the weight of the Americans, the Soviets, and the Europeans behind current efforts to achieve peace in the region, we are prompted by an awareness of the serious dangers posed to any unilateral efforts once they hit the wall of Israeli rejectionism against which numerous peace initiatives and endeavors have been broken.

It is high time to break away from general and ambiguous positions and launch a coordinated diplomatic effort and outline clear policies and specific positions to deal with the Middle East conflict without dwelling too long on the Israeli view, which is based on equivocation and attempts to buy time.

Paper Urges USSR To Play in Mideast

JN0805100191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
8 May 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Soviet Union and the Complementary Role"]

[Text] When the Soviet Foreign Minister begins his scheduled tour of a number of Middle East states today, diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the region's crisis will have reached an unprecedented level, especially since Aleksandr Bessmertnykh's visit follows visits to the region by a number of European foreign ministers and precedes a new tour by the U.S. secretary of state, scheduled for this weekend.

Hence, the current diplomatic efforts can be described as the most extensive international campaign to break the abstruse deadlock in the Middle East situation. Western and Eastern states appear to be coordinating their efforts, which makes us optimistic that the international community will strengthen its will and move from vague statements to a diplomatic move that will not lack seriousness or the required determination.

While we are optimistic that through the Soviet foreign minister's visit, Moscow will play a more effective role in the stumbling peace process, we hope that during Bessmertnykh's tour, the Soviet Union will maintain its declared firm positions on the Middle East and will remain sincere to the repeated Soviet statements on the principles that should guide every peaceful solution to the region's crisis.

We are afraid that Bessmertnykh's first trip to the Middle East will merely echo James Baker's past and future trips to the region's states, will follow American policy to satisfy Israel, and will, in the final analysis, lead to more political and diplomatic concessions to the aggressor state, including the resumption of the Soviet relations with Israel that have been severed since the 1967 war.

Since we do not want to predict any results, we hope that the new Soviet move in the Middle East will reflect a Soviet determination to play a special role in the region's crisis—a role that expresses a clear Soviet view of the factors of the proposed political settlement and that will prove that there is an atmosphere of understanding between the two superpowers on the prospects of the peace process, which is expected to be advanced despite the big obstacles Israel is creating.

In light of this, it seems that the Soviet move in the Middle East, to be inaugurated today by Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, is part of the extensive, rare European and American efforts exerted since the end of the Gulf crisis. This encourages us to welcome more warmly the Soviet minister who will arrive tomorrow and to consider his tour a signal that there is a strong international determination to benefit from the current historic opportunity for bringing about a just, comprehensive, and balanced peace in this part of the world.

GCC Urged To Include Iraq in Security Plans

JN0705070291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
7 May 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Realism, To Begin With"]

[Text] At a time when the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are holding "intensive contacts" with Iranian leaders to involve Iran in regional security arrangements

and sending one signal to Tehran after the other that the six regard Iran as a friend and neighbour, they are still refusing to turn a new page with the rest of their Arab brothers. Witness the communique the GCC foreign ministers issued at the end of their one-day meeting in Kuwait on Sunday calling for the continuation of sanctions against Iraq. This came about in spite of Baghdad's repeated declaration of acceptance to abide by all the U.N. Security Council resolutions, most prominent amongst which is SCR 660 which calls for negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to settle their border and other disputes.

There is nothing wrong in incoporating Iran into the Gulf regional security schemes. On the contrary it is necessary and logical. But what is inherently wrong in the GCC's latest approach is to exclude Iraq from such anticipated arrangements as if that country no longer exists on the map of the region. Iraq was, is and will always be an important Arab country and a regional power to reckon with. Granted it is a defeated state but that cannot change the overall picture that it is an important state both economically and politically, inhabited by Arab people whose continuous role in Arab affairs can never be excluded for all times. Rather than continue to ostracise Iraq and its people and make security plans for the future without taking the Iraqi factor into consideration, it would be much wiser and infinitely more farsighted to attempt now to reintegrate Iraq into the regional political and economic infrastructures as soon as possible. Needless to say, a permanent weak Iraq would and could invite regional disorder in the long run.

An unstable Iraq forced to submit to humiliating surrender conditions would logically lead to the rise of another regional power not only to fill the vacuum created but also to threaten to keep the whole area under its hegemony. No doubt the principal beneficiary from the continued isolation of Iraq would be Iran whose might and clout in the Gulf is bound to increase in proportion to the decrease in the influence and power of the Arab side of the broad Gulf equation.

It is high time therefore that the Arab world took a fresh look at the post Gulf war situation. It is also an opportune moment to heal wounds and start a new era in Arab history. The lessons of Kuwait's invasion and its occupation by Iraq cannot but influence all quarters in the Arab homeland for a long time to come. But these lessons need to be learned in a positive manner. In few years, if not months, Iraq's relations with its Arab neighbours will surely go back to normal. Is it not much better to reconstruct Gulf regional relations on that basis rather on the proposition that Iraq would forever remain at odds with these six Arab Gulf states? The important lessons of World War I must not be allowed to escape our attention. Surely it must have dawned on the Gulf states that defeated Germany rose from ashes again to threaten Europe, principally because it was humiliated and made to submit to short-sighted surrender terms. We think it is high time to begin the cultivation of affirmative and positive relations with Iraq and the rest of the Arab world anew and to make sure that the projected security arrangements in the Gulf region are made on realistic and healthy basis.

Paper Rejects 'Interference' in Iraq's Affairs

JN0805071691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 May 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Foreign Forces Must Immediately Leave Iraqi Territory"]

[Text] Now that the talks between Baghdad and the Kurdish leaders have made progress toward a national agreement on autonomy for the Kurds within the framework of the unity of the Iraqi homeland and people, there is no longer any justification for the presence of foreign forces—American, British, or other forces in any part of Iraqi territory or for the continued interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

The U.S. Administration and its allies, in cooperation with Iran, Turkey, and other suspect sides, have ignited the fires of sectarian sedition in southern and northern Iraq and extended every material, moral, and political support to the rebels, troublemakers, and rioters to harm Iraq's steadfastness and weaken it in order to divide, partition and dominate it.

The symbols of sectarian and ethnic sedition carried out the chapters of the conspiracy and pushed the elements of disturbance and confusion to destroy and ruin what the 30-state aggression failed to destroy in Iraqi cities and villages. These elements plundered the supply, food, and medicine storage provided by the Iraqi authorities and caused havoc in the Iraqi governorates. But due to their vigilance and awareness, the Iraqi people and their brave leadership were able to end the sedition and restore security and stability in Iraq.

But the U.S. Administration, which carried out premeditated conspiracies against fraternal Iraq, is continuing to interfere in Iraq's affairs under the slogan of human rights at times and the return of Kurdish refugees at other times. It also sent its forces into Iraqi territories and cities, violating Iraq's sovereignty and slighting international laws and charters.

The sectarian and ethnic sedition, which was triggered by the U.S. Administration and its allies, caused severe damage to fraternal Iraq and disturbed its security and stability. This prompted President Saddam Husayn to call for punishing and putting an end to the troublemakers and anarchists.

Now that Baghdad and the Kurdish leadership have achieved noticeable success in their talks on autonomy rule for the Kurds within the unity of the Iraqi territory and people, the foreign forces must immediately leave Iraq today, rather than tomorrow.

Talks on Economic Readjustment Begin

JN0705105891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 May 91 pp 1, 23

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—The annual meetings between an IMF-World Bank delegation and Jordanian officials began in Amman yesterday to discuss what has been achieved so far in the economic readjustment program and the impact of the Gulf war on the Jordanian economy.

A responsible source told AL-RA'Y that the delegation, headed by IMF representative Muhammad Ya'qub and World Bank representative Chitali [name as published], will review with Jordanian officials the economic readjustment program that Jordan began to implement in 1989, as part of the periodic review sessions held between the two sides. The importance of this review session derives lies in the fact that the talks will focus on the negative effects of the Gulf crisis and war on the Jordanian economy, and particularly on the structural aspects of the economy, the source added.

The source added: During the meetings, a conception of the overall framework for the economy will be drawn up by the World Bank and the IMF. This conception will be discussed during the next few days between the two sides so that we can ultimately arrive at an agreement on specific points reflecting the positive steps that need to be taken to serve the Jordanian economy.

The source said that it is difficult at present to make predictions on the recommendations the team will make, as it is in the initial stages of its mission. The preliminary meeting between the two sides was devoted to an exchange of views and a discussion of what suits the needs and capabilities of the Jordanian economy, the source said.

The source added: Later, the figures contained in the state budgets of the years 1989 and 1990 will be discussed. Then, conceptions will be drawn up for the budget of the year 1991. Also, the two sides will discuss the possibility of reducing and rescheduling debts.

The source added that Jordan has managed to exceed what was agreed upon in the economic readjustment program. The source added: However, the Gulf crisis had negative effects on the situation in general. Right now, we are optimistic, as we are about to strengthen our Jordanian economy through efforts to find new markets, reactivate exports, and establish institutions for encouraging exports, in addition to other measures we are planning to take.

It is to be recalled that the United Nations considered Jordan one of the countries harmed by the Gulf crisis, as Jordan's losses for this year as a result of the crisis were estimated at $2.5 billion.

Jordan's representatives at the meetings were Finance Minister Basil Jardanah in his capacity as Jordan's representative to the IMF, Planning Minister Dr. Khalid Amin 'Abdallah in his capacity as Jordan's representative to the World Bank, Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz, Central Bank of Jordan Governor Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, and other officials.

U.S. Navy Intercepts Ship Bound for Jordan

JN0805072091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 May 91 p 1

[Text] U.S. naval units stationed in the Tiran Straits in the Red Sea intercepted the Indian vessel "Antwerp" [name as published], which is carrying goods that are being imported by Jordanian businessmen.

The U.S. naval units ordered the ship to unload its cargo at one of the Red Sea ports although all the official documents show that the goods and containers are being imported by Jordanian businessmen.

Israeli Planes Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC0805102091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been flying over the south, especially Sidon and the Palestinian camps, since this morning.

Militia Disbandment Linked to Israeli Withdrawal

NC0705100491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has stressed that his organization is ready to abide by the decision for the militias to disband and hand over their weapons, provided a clear and comprehensive timetable is drawn up for the withdrawal of Israeli forces and Lahd militiamen from the Jazzin area up to the international boundry with occupied Palestine. He added that any other solution would not be in the national interest and would keep the areas of Sidon, the south, and the camps at the mercy of Israel's threats, aggression, and hegemony.

Sa'd added: We stress that priority must be given to the Israeli and Lahdist withdrawal. Only after this is done will the question of dissolving the popular army and the security police become subject to discussion, on condition that their members are integrated into in the military, security, and public institutions. Sa'd reiterated that fraternal Syria will always remain the real guarantee to Lebanon and all nationalists due to its progressive stands in confronting the imperialist-Zionist schemes.

Minister Discusses Resistance in South

NC0805100091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Minister of State Nazih al-Bizri has emphasized that the Lebanese Army will begin deploying in Sidon by the end of June. He indicated that Sidon is a good indicator of Lebanon's health because it is the capital and when the south regains its health, all Lebanon will be healthy.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-LIWA' published today, al-Bizri said that the Lebanese resistance that forced Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory did not rely on tanks, armored cars, or artillery; all the resistance needs is a rifle and an explosive device.

Indicating that the major powers have given a firm promise that Resolution 425 will be implemented once the Lebanese Government establishes its authority over all Lebanese territory, Minister al-Bizri said that the nonimplementation of Resolution 425 over the past 13 years has created the impression that the United Nations appeases Israel, which is doing everything in its power to thwart the implementation of this resolution. He affirmed that the resistance will continue and intensify if Israel does not withdraw. The credibility of the major powers regarding the implementation of this resolution is being put to the test, he said.

Defense Minister Returns From Damascus

NC0705162991 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Engineer Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and defense minister, returned from Damascus this afternoon after holding official talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for three hours.

Karami on Damascus Talks, National Issues

NC0605090191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has briefed President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the outcome of his talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus yesterday. The talks dealt with the peace progress and the ways to implement the remaining provisions of the al-Ta'if accord. Prime Minister Karami talked to reporters following the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Karami] As you know, we visited Damascus yesterday and met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The discussions dealt with all topics dealing with the completion of the peace progress and accord march in Lebanon and with ensuring the implementation of the remaining provisions of the al-Ta'if accord. Everyone who recently visited Syria has sensed that country's willingness to help resolve all problems, hurdles, and obstacles so that we can achieve our aspired goals.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: Criticism has been leveled against a number of ministers. What is you comment?

[Karami] This is the spirit of democracy enjoyed by the Lebanese people, be they ministers or ordinary citizens. What counts is that we all should work for the sake of public interest. I believe that when everyone listens to their conscience and analyzes matters in a sound and logical way, they will find that we only work for the public interest.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: Is there anything new on the parliamentary appointments?

[Karami] God willing, the chamber's session will be held tomorrow. I believe that the atmosphere is suitable to ratify the amendment of the law. I have also been informed that another session will be held on Thursday to ratify this issue.

[Correspondent] What about the assimilation of militiamen?

[Karami] This depends on the committee. You may question the committee chairman, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr. [end recording]

Karami Receives PLO Delegation

NC0705103191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami met today with a PLO delegation led by Salih Zaydan. They discussed the question of Palestinian weapons and relations between Lebanon and the Palestinians.

Following the meeting, Zaydan expressed support for the Palestinian Central Council's resolutions which underlined the PLO's willingness to cooperate in the national [Lebanese] accord process and to exert all efforts to implement UN Resolution 425. Zaydan added that he stressed the need to initiate an official and direct dialogue between the PLO and the Lebanese Government, noting that Prime Minister Karami received this positively.

Concern Voiced Over Army Deployment in South

NC0805064191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, has stated that the Lebanese Army's deployment in the South has resulted in an increase in attacks on the areas under his army's control. He said that the Lebanese Government's talk about the resistance complicates matters and reinforces our feelings of disquiet, adding that if the area of Jazzin is turned over to the Lebanese Army it may become a springboard for military operations against his peaceful area.

Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said last week that Jazzin will be included in the second phase of the Army's deployment.

Buwayz on U.S. 'Weakness' Toward Israel

NC0705140791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has expressed reservations about the way the United States is pursuing the implementation of UN Resolution 425.

In an interview with our radio, Buwayz said: We notice that the United States demonstrates a weakness toward Israel in this respect. Perhaps this weakness is the result of pressure on Congress or other institutions by the Zionist lobby in the United States, he added.

While noting the United States' positive role in backing the legitimacy's internal steps under the al-Ta'if accord, Minister Buwayz said the reason he did not meet with the U.S. secretary of state is because of some negative matters in Lebanon, including the issue of the hostages and the question of security. He added: It is true that Washington has dusted off UN Resolution 425, but it has not yet put the necessary pressure on Israel, perhaps because its ability to do so is limited. Minister Buwayz added: There is a U.S. promise to push UN Resolution 425, but so far this has been inadequate. In all cases, he added, we cannot rely on Washington's contributions to mere intentions or endeavors.

Minister Buwayz touched on the issue of the special relations with Syria. He described it as a major, multifaceted, and comprehensive issue. He denied knowledge of any differences within the committee in charge of drafting the relations with Syria. He added: Some members made some remarks of a legal, constitutional, and technical nature.

Asked if he shares the opinion that calls for unifiying views and integration with Syria, Buwayz said: It is an ambiguous and very general statement. He added: What views and what integration are we talking about? It is premature to talk about this issue, and perhaps Syria itself will not accept it. What we need to do is put ideas on paper. When it comes to integration, we have to ask: Under what criteria and to what extent? Perhaps Syria will not agree to some kind of integration in economic affairs, because of the different arrangements in both countries. Therefore, it is not quite certain that the talk about integration suits both parties. Minister Buwayz added: Lebanon might have an interest in establishing an economic integration with Syria, but the opposite might not be true.

Minister Buwayz then touched on the issue of Lebanon's joining the group of eight [Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council members]. He said: I do not know if this subject is still on the table. As I understand it, this entity or structure was established immediately after the Gulf war. Today, there is a trend to expand the framework of inter-Arab contacts, and I do not know if this grouping will stay as it is. Perhaps it will return to the Arab Leauge fold or become a more expanded or comprehensive grouping. We notice in this respect that the activity of the eight-member grouping is relatively frozen, perhaps because its structure is being given a second look, he added.

Syrian, Lebanese Forces Coordinate on Drug Raid

JN0605123691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 6 May (SANA)—Through coordination with the Lebanese authorities, the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon, having received the required information, confiscated 9,000 kgs of hashish a few days ago. The consignment had been prepared for smuggling to the world consumer markets.

A responsible source at the Interior Ministry stated yesterday that the competent authorities will soon destroy the confiscated material. The date for this will be announced later.

Soviet Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN0805115391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and his delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a two-day visit to Syria. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the directors of the East European and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Mr. Bessmertnykh made a statement to the press following his arrival. He said: The basic topics I will discuss during my visit deal with the possibility of pushing the peace process forward, as well as bilateral relations and ways of promoting Syrian-Soviet dialogue and bilateral cooperation in all fields.

The Soviet foreign minister emphasized the need to settle the Middle East problem in a peaceful manner. He said that his tour of several Middle East countries seeks to discuss ways for settling this problem. He added: There are preliminary concepts on this issue.

In reply to a question on whether the Soviet Union can bring pressure to bear on Israel to have it implement the UN resolutions, halt the establishment of settlements, and withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, Bessmertnykh affirmed that the Soviet Union will continue, as always, to support and assist the Arab cause and the Palestinians. He said he believes there is a need to attain a just settlement in the region, affirming that the Soviet Union is one of the participants in this type of settlement which he said will be fair to all parties concerned. He said the Soviet Union's principled stand is firm and that there is no deviation in the Soviet policy. He said the Soviet Union has been abiding by this principled stand for a long time.

Reportage on Visit by Lebanese Defense Minister

Meets With Counterpart

JN0705202191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Lebanese National Defense Minister Michel al-Murr held talks with his Syrian counterpart General Mustafa Talas before his meeting with President al-Asad today. The talks dealt with relations between the Syrian and Lebanese Armies. The Lebanese and Syrian ministers held a joint press conference, during which, Gen. Talas said that legitimate weapons are the only ones that will remain in Lebanon, and that all measures have been taken to accomplish this. This also applies to Palestinian and Iranian Revolutionary Guard weapons.

On the questions regarding the reality of the Palestinian position on disarming, Gen. Talas said that the Palestinian position was positive in this regard.

Gen. Talas announced that the climate is more appropriate than before to implement Resolution No. 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Views Security With Al-Asad

JN0705194191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Minister of National Defense Michel al-Murr and his accompanying delegation. General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister, defense minister, and deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, attended. During the meeting, talks centered on the situation in Lebanon and measures taken by the Lebanese Government to spread its authority over Lebanese territories in implementation of the national accord document.

Al-Murr explained the steps taken to spread security and peace throughout Lebanon and expressed gratitude and appreciation for Syria and its Armed Forces for backing Lebanon's efforts to close the chapter of the past and its tragedies and to promote national accord and legitimacy.

His excellency the president expressed Syria's satisfaction with the success of the measures taken by Lebanon in implementation of the national accord document to end the abnormal situation and foster security and peace. He affirmed that Syria will continue to support Lebanon and its constitutional institutions in any step they take to restore Lebanon's health and role.

Gen. Mustafa Talas also received the Lebanese minister and his accompanying delegation this morning. The meeting was attended by General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; and General 'Ali Aslan and General Hasan Turkumani, deputies of the chief of staff. The talks centered on relations between the two fraternal Armies, as well as ways to develop them in the service of the march of the Lebanese national accord toward security and stability within the framework of the pan-Arab role being played by al-Asad's Syria in the Lebanese arena.

Interviewed on Army, Militias

JN0705200591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1752 GMT 7 May 91

[Interview with Michel al-Murr, Lebanese national defense minister, by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Your excellency, we are honored to interview you.
[Al-Murr] You are welcome.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, to start with, please permit me to extend warm congratulations in my name and on behalf of the Syrian media for the Lebanese Army's great success in its deployment throughout Lebanon following

the dissolution of the militias. My first question is about your assessment of this development.

[Al-Murr] I would like to go back to two or three days before the deployment, which was not a deployment in the sense that it was a military attack or a military victory; rather, it was a deployment of the legitimate government with no roughing up of citizens. This Lebanese Army, which is part of the people, did not attack the people; it did not cause a military battle. This was possible thanks to the leadership in Damascus, which helped us. I go back to Sunday—we carried out the deployment on Wednesday. Meetings with Lebanese leaders were held in Damascus Saturday and Sunday; I attended. Thanks to the Syrian leaders' efforts, militia leaders were convinced to facilitate the Army's deployment. They were convinced that the legitimate government is the only authority. Syria's support was great; it enabled us to reach the hoped-for results of establishing the state's authority without battles or bloodshed.

Concerning the deployment itself, it was carried out normally, as you know. The public welcomed the Army and considered the action an important achievement. For 15 years, the people have been yearning for authority and the legitimate government and its Army. They welcomed the Army with roses and chants. The scenes in all areas of deployment showed that the Lebanese wanted the state and legitimate government to be the only authority in the country. The support of his excellency the president and leadership of Syria facilitated this mission and removed all obstacles.

[Reporter] Your excellency, I put my first question to you in your capacity as defense minister. I am putting my second question to you as deputy prime minister. Lebanese leaders, I believe, are now talking about certain issues; namely, parliamentary appointments, the future of the militias, and relations with Syria. How do you view these issues?

[Al-Murr] These three issues are very important. Concerning parliamentary appointments, we know that they will be temporary; that is, for a certain period, until the government is able to hold elections. Every country in the world wishes democracy to take its right path; that is, that general elections be held so that popular representation can be real. But until these elections are held, it is necessary to appoint deputies. For one thing, more than one- third of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies are now vacant; for another, the al-Ta'if agreement provides for equal representation in the Chamber for Muslims and Christians. We must, therefore, put this agreement into effect. Muslims in Lebanon should not feel that the state is procrastinating; delay in making the appointments means procrastinating. My viewpoint, therefore, is that we should make the appointments as soon as possible. Afterward, we should move quickly to prepare for parliamentary elections that reflect the wishes of the people. We will go all out to do this.

The second issue is special relations with Syria. This is also provided for in the al-Ta'if agreement. We insist that this agreement be implemented in letter and spirit. Even if the agreement failed to mention this, we would still believe—and we said this years ago—that special relations with Syria are of benefit more to Lebanon and the Lebanese than to Syria. This is not something required by Syria as much as it is required by Lebanon.

A sound framework and special relations will be the outcome of these historical and geographical convictions and the existing normal relations between the two countries. These relations are called special, but they are in fact normal. History and geography, as well as the ties between the two peoples, dictate these relations.

The committee in charge of giving form to these special relations will hold a meeting this afternoon at the prime minister's office. We will reach the final formula this evening. We need to discuss the matter swiftly, because procrastination in this issue will harm Lebanon and the Lebanese more than Syria and the Syrians.

[Reporter] The third issue?

[Al-Murr] The third issue is absorbing the militia elements. The term absorption is being used in Lebanon again. In disbanding the militias we faced two options. We could have asked the Lebanese Army, which is part of the people, to carry out a military action to end the role of the militias. This would have been very costly in terms of blood, destruction, and untold tragedy. The Lebanese people have suffered a great deal; they cannot endure more blood and destruction.

We adopted the second option. We asked the militias a question. In my capacity as the deputy prime minister, I chaired the ministerial committee tasked with this issue. We presented the matter as follows: Do you agree on disbanding the militias in an amicable way, on handing the weapons to the government, on stopping the illegitimate collection of money, and on stopping any militia acts that might encroach on the powers of the legitimate government and authority? The answer was: Yes, but we want the militia elements to be absorbed into the government institutions. In light of this demand in exchange for achieving what we wanted peacefully and amicably, we agreed. A committee of experts was formed, because the absorption should not be an excuse to introduce random elements into the government's military and civilian institutions. We agreed on the absorption in accordance with the conditions, qualifications, and capabilities of the Lebanese Government.

These frameworks and bases were laid down. Contrary to what they are saying, that we are procrastinating in endorsing the move, the committee will meet next Wednesday—that is, within 48 hours—to approve the final basis and submit a proposal to the Council of Ministers so that it may decide on the issue of absorption. This sums up the issue of absorption. I have briefly explained the three points.

[Reporter] Thank you, Your Excellency the Minister. There is another major point we would like you to shed some light on. These big and positive developments over the past year have produced a new language divorced from the language of war. The question is: How do you view the political platform of the parties that were enemies in the past and today have become part of the Lebanese legitimacy march?

[Al-Murr] After this military deployment, we felt on the ground that, within days, the Lebanese factions that had been involved in military conflict, had moved into areas where they had been frightened to move into before. The Christians, for example, were afraid to move to West Beirut and the Muslims were afraid to move from West Beirut to East Beirut; and the Christians in al-Matn were afraid to move to the Kasrawan area, which is a Christian area also, and from Kasrawan to al-Matn. The areas were opened to each other, and a kind of tranquility prevailed. Therefore, the people were reassured with the presence of legitimacy and the Army.

Thus, this popular understanding should turn into political understanding among the leaders. Hence, the idea of political reconciliation among all parties in Lebanon should be propounded. The Syrian leadership, and President al-Asad in particular, who always sponsors reconciliations and solutions in Lebanon, will, I believe, have a big role in facilitating the mission of reconciliation, because political reconciliation will entrench the situation that exists popularly on the ground. I believe that this step will finally be the beginning of the end of the Lebanese war.

[Reporter] Thank you for all that you have said. I hope we will meet at another time when Lebanon scores additional victories.

[Al-Murr] You are welcome. Our regards to the Syrian leadership and the fraternal Syrian people through you and through the Syrian Arab Television which we always appreciate because every time we talk to it, our words are conveyed to the people who, together with the Lebanese people, are as one.

Paper Praises Lebanese Surrender of Weapons

JN0705161091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Big Change," TISHRIN says: There is no doubt that disbanding the militias is considered an important and major development in the process of consolidating security and peace in Lebanon. The presence of the militias was considered a dangerous manifestation of the war that lasted 15 years in Lebanon. The newspaper affirms that adhering to the national reconciliation charter means adhering to Lebanon—a peaceful, stable, and united Lebanon in which all manifestations of chaos and abnormal phenomena will end forever.

TISHRIN adds: The militias' swift handover of all their weapons to the legitimate Lebanese authority or transfer of these weapons outside of Lebanon constitute real evidence and proof that removes all doubts—if they really exist—about the good, positive intentions of all Lebanese forces, regardless of their affiliation or position.

The newspaper says: Nothing in this stage rises above the objective of rebuilding the state, particularly since this objective cannot be achieved with the existence of illegitimate arms in Lebanon.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The legitimate Lebanese Government's determination to continue the implementation of the national reconciliation charter requires that all Lebanese demonstrate a real and practical concern to render the march of security and peace a success and to concentrate efforts and capabilities on implementing Resolution 425, which calls for the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Commentary Urges UN To Impose Resolutions

JN0805060291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1133 GMT 7 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh is due to begin his tour to the region tomorrow, including Damascus as his first stop. It was announced in Washington that Secretary of State James Baker would make his fourth tour of the region; the Netherlands foreign minister, whose country will chair the EC's upcoming session, is making an exploratory tour; and in Moscow, Soviet President Gorbachev and French President Mitterrand held a brief meeting and stressed the need to hold an international peace conference attended by the United Nations to find a final solution to the Middle East issue and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

It is quite clear that the international community is now giving priority to efforts to achieve the desired just peace in our region and to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is viewed as the most dangerous and explosive conflict in the world that threatens world peace and stability. The Arab side has responded frankly to the honest peace efforts by abiding by international resolutions and calling for their implementation.

Only Israel is rejecting these efforts by placing obstacles before Baker and other international figures and by advancing the settlement process in the occupied Arab territories in violation of all commitments. Israeli Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon announced the establishment of a new settlement near the city of Hebron in the West Bank. Sharon himself was responsible for the establishment of two settlements during Baker's third tour. Many enemy ministers called

for confronting the active peace endeavors of the international community in order to expand settlement operations and to impose more than a fait accompli on the occupied territories.

Israel does not want peace. It views the international community's endeavors as a danger to its expansionist, aggressive plans. Peace means withdrawal from the occupied territories, recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, and fixed borders. Israel rejects such borders and aspires to its Torah empire, which can be established only through expansionist wars. But for how long can Israel defy the world, usurp rights, commit crimes, occupy Arab land, and displace Palestine's people without being punished?

Washington circles themselves announced that Secretary of State Baker had not achieved any noticeable results during his three tours because of Israel's intransigence. The slight progress made by the U.S. secretary of state during his talks with Israel's Foreign Minister David Levi was disavowed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Others will not be luckier than Baker because the Zionist entity is determined to reject peace. Moreover, it considers peace to be suicide. French President Mitterrand hinted during his recent talks with Gorbachev that the Middle East crisis might require force as a final remedy, if current peace efforts prove useless. This is reference to a precedence in which force was used, namely; Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Many Security Council resolutions have been issued, and the world cannot apply its resolutions here and, at the same time, ignore them there. The responsibility is one and cannot be divided.

The world has only two options: The first is to implement its resolutions and force Israel to respect international resolutions, principles, and charters, since it has enough means of pressure and force to impose respect for its resolutions. The second option is to resign from its responsibility and allow the law of the jungle, confusion, and trouble to prevail in the world.

There is no doubt that the world's preoccupation with finding a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East crisis and the cooperation among the United States, the Soviet Union, the EC, and the United Nations all emphasize that the international community is serious in its efforts and that Israel has no other choice but to submit to the international community and implement UN resolutions. It is only natural that Israel submit to right, justice, and the world's desire for peace and stability, but it is unnatural for the world to announce its failure to impose ght and justice because of Israel's intransigence.

Foreign Minister on Middle East Peace Talks

JN0705204591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2020 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the Palestinians should be represented in the proposed Middle East peace talks either by the PLO or by Palestinians elected in the occupied West Bank and Gaza under neutral international supervision. This came in a statement Mr. al-Shar' gave to a REUTER correspondent in Damascus today.

The foreign minister said President Hafiz al-Asad conveyed this position to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his talks in Damascus. The same position was also conveyed to the European ministers who recently held talks with Syrian officials. Al-Shar' explained that Syria does not see any formula for free and genuine Palestinian representation other than through the PLO or through Palestinians elected in the West Bank and Gaza under neutral international supervision. He added: Syria's insistence on a comprehensive peace means it will not accept bilateral peace, whether between Israel and Syria or between Israel and the Palestinians.

Mr. al-Shar' said that Syria wants a comprehensive peaceful settlement in which all parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict take part. He added that the proposed peace conference must not be ceremonial, but ongoing, with the United Nations playing an important role together with the Soviet Union, the United States, and the European Community. The foreign minister said the ball is now in Israel's court, and if Baker's mission fails, then Israel will be held responsible.

India

DPRK Vice President Arrives in New Delhi

BK0805054491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] The vice president of North Korea, Mr. Yi Chong-ok, has arrived in New Delhi last night on a four-day state visit to this country. He was received at the airport by the minister of state and prime minister's office, Mr. Kamal Murarka. Mr. Yi Chong-ok is accompanied by an eight-member delegation, including the vice foreign minister, Mr. Cho Kyu-il. Mr. Yi Chong-ok will have wide ranging discussions with the Indian leaders on bilateral and international matters. The visit will be marked by signing of agreements for cooperation in science and technology and a cultural exchange program. Before returning home on Saturday [11 May], Mr. Yi will go to Agra and Jaipur.

Exchange of Fire Continues on Kashmir Border

BK0705125691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 73 bodies of Pakistan-trained militants, who were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Kupwara sector on Sunday [5 May] have been recovered. Seven militants have been captured. A large number of arms have been recovered.

Reports reaching New Delhi say that intermittent shelling and firing from across the line of actual control is still on. Our security forces are returning the fire.

Pakistani Version of Kashmir Killings Refuted

BK0705160291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Reports reaching New Delhi say intermittent shelling and firing from across the line of actual control along the Kupwara sector which started four days ago is still on. Our security forces are returning the fire. According to official sources the firing is obviously meant to divert the attention of the security forces so that the militants may infiltrate and slip back after the encounter.

Seventy-three bodies of Pakistani trained militants killed in an encounters with the security forces on Sunday [5 May] have been recovered so far. Seven militants have been captured and a large quantity of arms recovered. The security forces are combing the area. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that two jawans [soldiers] were killed and another injured in Sunday's encounter.

The Indian high commissioner in Pakistan, Mr. J.N. Dixit, has strong refuted Pakistan Government accusation that those killed were unarmed civilians. Mr. Dixit told our Islamabad correspondent that he has categorically told the Pakistan Foreign Office that the militants were in fact armed infiltrators and the incident took place on our side of the Line of Control. He said Indian security forces are duty bound to respond effectively to protect the Indian frontiers. The high commissioner told the Pakistan Foreign office that such a tragedy would not have occurred had there been no collusion and encouragement from the Pakistan side.

Former Kashmir Police Allegedly Join Militants

BK0605113491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 6 (AFP)—A group of Kashmir policemen who deserted or were dismissed from the force have joined armed Moslem militants fighting for the state's secession from India, newspapers said here Monday.

A former constable of the Kashmir police told journalists in a hideout near the Kashmiri summer capital of Srinagar that 100 former policemen had joined the rebels and thousands of active duty police were clandestinely supporting them.

The former constable, who used the pseudonym Mamoon Rashid, said the group had joined the ranks of the Heb-ul-Mujahidin, a front-line guerrilla outfit whose leader Muhammad Ahsun Dar was at the Sunday press conference, THE HINDUSTAN TIMES said.

The times in its report from Srinagar said a group of some 30 former Kashmir police paraded in front of the journalists at the conference with weapons and in full uniform.

Paper Alleges Pakistan Foreign Office-ISI Rift

BK0605093591 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Lahore, April 28 (ANI) [ASEAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL]—The Pakistani intelligence service led by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) have locked horns with the Foreign Office establishment over the creation of a special cell to deal with Kashmir affairs in the office of president Gulam Ishaq Khan. The special Kashmir cell, according to reliable sources, has been set up on the lines of the Afghan cell which coordinated secret support to the Mujahidin during the 10-year-old Afghan civil war.

The special Kashmir cell is causing considerable concern among the bureaucracy and the business circles in Pakistan particularly the Pakistan Foreign Office where it is believed that the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) may be stepping up its support to terrorists in the Indian part of Kashmir. Indications are the ISI, much encouraged by the Mujahidin's success in taking over Khowst is going all out to prove its credentials in Kashmir also.

The special Kashmir cell, created in the highest office of the land, has triggered a widespread suspicion against the ISI. While people in the Pakistan generally do not mind the vocal and moral support given to the Kashmiris by the Pakistan Government, the fact that the ISI via Kashmir cell and the President's office may be getting

more deeply involved in Kashmir is leading many elements in the Foreign Office and bureaucracy to conclude that the ISI is on a different agenda with India.

There is a general belief within the Foreign Office that the ISI and elements in the Army are out of line with both international and American thinking by escalating Pakistan's material and weapon support to the Kashmiri militants. Some political observers in Pakistan feel that the escalation of material support by Pakistan, which is what the Kashmir cell in the President's office is concentrating on could invite retaliation from India.

An india of this thought process was provided recently in an article in the FRONTIER POST which quoted military observers and diplomats in Islamabad predicting a military adventure by India against Pakistan in September or October of this year.

Long time observers of the Pakistani Press believe that Pakistan is shifting the tables on India by trying to blame India for exactly what its military may be up to. Pakistan Foreign Office sources are clearly at odds with the ISI. The Foreign Officially the latest US Senate Sub-Committee hearing on South Asia which considered the question of aid to Pakistan. Special mention was made of the misgivings among the Sub-Committee members regarding the activities of Pakistani militants in Kashmir. The US Senate members felt that the Pakistan Government should be told in no uncertain terms that US assistance would be permanently terminated if Pakistan continues to support terrorism in Kashmir.

Janata Dal Wants Shekhar Government Dismissed

BK0505130491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] The Janata Dal has urged the president, Mr. Venkataraman, to dismiss the Chandra Shekhar government and appoint an impartial caretaker prime minister. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party leader, Mr. Sharad Yadav, strongly criticized the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar's recent statement on the law and order problem in Bihar calling it a propagation of lies. He appealed to the president and the Bihar governor not to take any action against the Bihar government based on such statements.

Singh Vows To Eliminate Social Inequities

BK0705160891 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1500 GMT 7 May 91

[Election address by Janata Dal President V.P. Singh on 7 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Friends, our struggle is for a more equitable political, economic, and social order. Inequities are the genesis of divisiveness and instability. Some people think that they will sit in the chair, stability will come automatically. They have a very myopic view of the social dynamics. Snowfall on the peaks of a volcano does not prevent its eruption. Equity is the rock foundation of stability and the surest way and more sagacious way to stability is through equity. Those who cling to the present status quo, in fact, are in for greater instability, for they are trying to suppress the inequities which one day will erupt in their face.

In the present setup, it is the creative forces that are shattered and marginalized, be they women, be they youth, be they laborers, be they farmers. They do not have a share in decisionmaking. The Janata Dal does not only want to ameliorate their condition but also wants to give them a share in decisionmaking. However, Janata Dal, its allies, my colleagues and myself in particular may be cursed for the Mandal Commission, but it is a matter of satisfaction that now almost everyone swears by reservation for backward classes. We have succeeded. In fact, in a sense, we enjoy power even without (?government) and that is the essence of people's pressure and people's power. Real changes in history have not emanated from ministerial chairs but from the huts and hearts of the deprived people, and it is here that where the transformation is taking place. I invite you to share this transformation and support the Janata Dal and it allies and endorse your vote on the Chakra [wheel]—the symbol of the Janata Dal. Your vote will not only be for forming a government but also for shaping a more humane society. Jai Hindi [Hail India].

Shekhar Concerned Over Rise in Communal Forces

BK0705035691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] The Samajwadi Janata Party leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has expressed concern over the rise in communal and divisive forces and urged the people to frustrate the design of those who are trying to divide the country on communal lines. Addressing public meetings in Maharashtra, he called upon the rich businessmen to part with a portion of their profits to help the poor.

Early End to Import Restrictions Ruled Out

BK0405094091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out the lifting of the Reserve Bank of India's [RBI] restrictions on imports in the near future. Addressing a meeting of the Federation of Engineering Industries in New Delhi today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said his government had to resort to the RBI restrictions for servicing the short-term loans taken by the National Front government. On the IMF loan, Mr. Chandra Shekhar pointed out that this is not a happy situation which reflected the inherent weakness of the economy.

'Militants' Fire at Security Forces in Srinagar

BK0705144491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, militants fired on security forces pickets at five places in Srinagar. Eight security personnel were injured. The security forces returned the fire but exercised restraint to avoid killing of innocent

persons in the busy areas. Firing also took place at several other localities by the militants to force shopkeepers to close their shops. Meanwhile, seven subversives were arrested by the security forces along with arms and ammunition during searches in Srinagar and Kupwara districts.

Andhra Pradesh State Assembly Member Killed

BK0805044291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradsh, Naxalites belonging to the people's war group shot dead Congress-I MLA [member of Legislative Assembly] Mr. S. Chenna Reddy at his residence in Dharampuram Village in Anandpur District yesterday. Mr. Reddy represented the Penikonda constituency in the assembly. Reports say that three armed Naxalites dressed in police uniform came to his residence and fired at him from close range.

Relief Aid for Bangladesh Cyclone Announced

BK0705152291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] India is to give 10 crore rupees for relief assistance to the victims of the cyclone disaster in Bangladesh. The amount to be given from the prime minister's relief fund will be utilized to provide such assistance in kind as the Bangladesh authorities would require for immediate relief and for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the cyclone-ravaged areas.

* Muslim Groups Negotiate Election Stance

* National Minorities Front

91AS0855A Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 11 Apr 91 p 5

[Article: "Muslim Leaders Form Front"]

[Text] New Delhi, April 10: Non-Ulema Muslim leaders have initiated a "National Minorities Front" that will negotiate with various parties for the coming elections. The Front is also trying to bring together the Janata Dal and the Janata Dal(S)[Socialist] so that the Muslim vote does not split between Mr V. P. Singh and Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh.

The Front till now has managed to rope in three political parties—the United Minorities Front of Assam, the Quami Morcha and the Majlis Ittehad Musalmeen of Andhra Pradesh. The Front leaders have already had a round of talks with Mr V. P. Singh and modalities are being worked out for the MUF [Muslim United Front] to join the National Front in Assam.

The Front today released its manifesto, which will be sent tomorrow to all political parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] "for their information." Copies of the manifesto have already been sent to prospective allies so that it forms a basis for dialogue.

The Front spokesman, Mr Jawed Habib, who is a member of the Babri Masjid Action Committee, said it was difficult to discuss any matter with the BJP because their whole polity was based on the concept of "anti-minorities."

The Front, which has been initiated by Sultan Salahuddin Qwaise, MP [member of Parliament], would like the political parties to incorporate the demands raised by them in their respective manifestos. It has had informal discussions with the Janata Dal, which is considered "naturally closer" to them. Discussion with the Congress(I), however, have been more formal.

While the Front would like to have an all-India level adjustment with one single party, the exigencies of the Indian political system do not allow this, Mr Habib said. For instance, in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, a two-party system exists—it is either the BJP or Congress(I).

The leaders of the Muslim organisations have decided to forge the Front because they feel that Muslims are being used in a game of political football."

The Shahi Imam of the Jama Masjid is not part of the Front, although several leaders in it belong to the Babri Masjid Action Committee. The Front leaders, however, had discussions with Syed Shahabuddin and Ahmed Bukhari, the Naib Imam and son of the Shahi Imam. The nine-page manifesto released by the Front stresses the need to improve the educational standards of the minorities, weightage to minorities in educational policies, uniformity in policies of central and state government, economic uplift and special attention to the welfare of weavers and handicraftsmen.

* Discussions With Leaders

91AS0855B Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Apr 91 p 7

[Article by special correspondent: "Panel To Decide Whom Muslims Should Back"]

[Text] New Delhi, April 11. A six-member committee set up by several Muslim organisations and registered political parties has been empowered to hold direct talks with leaders of national parties to decide for whom the Muslims should vote in the coming Lok Sabha polls.

A preliminary round of discussions has already taken place between some influential members of this committee and Mr V. P. Singh on the one hand and Mr. Chandra Shekhar on the other. The committee also hopes to have a discussion in the coming weeks with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The committee will be looking for concrete assurances on implementation of some of their demands and solution to the problems of social and economic backwardness among the Muslims in return for a commitment that the considerable Muslim votes will be polled for that party.

Important development: Observers view this as an important development and an effort by the Muslim leaders to

ensure that the Muslim vote is not scattered as a result of the break-up of the Janata Dal into the Janata Dal and the Janata Dal(S)[Socialist] and the Mulayam Singh Yadav faction of the JD(S). By implication, the spokesman of the newly-formed committee, Mr. Jawed Habeeb, has not ruled out support for the Congress(I), saying that the decision would be taken by the committee strictly on the basis of talks with top political leaders.

It was on April 2 that a meeting was held between the representatives of Itihad-e-Musalmeen, Qaumi Morcha, the United Minorities' Front, the All India Muslim Personal Law Conference, a representative of the Muslim League in Uttar Pradesh, and the Muslim Youth Convention. The decision to set up the six-member Qaumi Mushawarat Committee was taken here. Its members are Mr. S. Owaisi, chairman, Mr. Zafaryab Jilani, Mr. Abdul Qayoom Akhtar, Mr. Hafiz Rashid Chaudhary, Mr. Shafiq Durrani and Mr. Jawed Habeeb, convenor. After the committee holds talks with national political leaders on the basis of its charter of demands it will hold another meeting and will then publicly announce which political party it intends to support.

Main demands: One of the demands of this Qaumi Mushawarat Committee is that the political party which seeks its support should agree that if it comes to power it would enact a legislation to freeze the *status quo* of all places of worship as on August 15, 1947. The party would also have to agree to protect the Babri Masjid, not to allow any illegal construction on the wakf property attached to it till a court verdict in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janambhoomi case and all agitations aimed at inciting communal hatred and violence should be banned.

The Committee today released its charter of demands and Mr. Habeeb said that it would be sent to all political parties at the national and State level with a letter to say that the committee was ready to hold talks with them on this basis. The Bharatiya Janata Party is to be left out of this exercise for "obvious reasons," but a copy of the demands would also be sent to it for information.

Mr. Habeeb released what he described as the manifesto of the proposed National Minority Front which would eventually try to bring under one political umbrella the religious, linguistic and other minorities. This document also demands the creation of a special riot police, a uniform compensation of Rs.[rupees]1 lakh for the kin of those killed in riots and reservation of seats for the minorities in educational institutions, easy loans for the minorities to help them start small businesses and adequate representation to minorities in the selection of candidates for the coming elections.

The committee would also like a commitment on the setting up of a permanent machinery of consultation between the Prime Minister and the minorities for the implementation of its demands.

Mr. Habeeb said that in the past the Congress(I) and then the Janata Dal came to power and both on different occasions had been supported by the Muslims. However, the acute social and economic problems faced by the minorities were quickly forgotton [as published]. The committee expressed the view that the minorities no longer want to be treated as vote banks to be wooed before the elections and then forgotton [as published]. The Committee would like the national party it decides to support to include some of its demands in its own election manifesto and give concrete assurances on a time-bound implementation plan for some of these.

Iran

FRG Foreign Minister Genscher Continues Visit

News Conference Given

LD0705201191 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—The German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher today termed the outcome of his talks in Tehran as "constructive". His Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati too, said he had held "sincere, friendly and constructive" talks with Genscher who arrived here last night on a three-day official visit.

The two foreign ministers were addressing a joint news conference at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies. Reporting on his activities, Genscher said he had met under a tight schedule, with Velayati, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh, as well as representatives of German citizens in Iran. He said he would also meet with groups of Iraqi Kurdish and Shiite refugees after the news conference. The German foreign minister is due to pay a visit to the Iranian border areas where hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees have been settled in temporary camps.

In his meeting with Hashemi-Rafsanjani earlier today, Genscher invited him on behalf of Chancellor Helmut Kohl to visit Germany which the Iranian president accepted. Hashemi-Rafsanjani extended a similar invitation to Kohl to visit Iran.

Genscher said at the news conference that the visits would take place this year but that their date and that which would take place first would be decided through diplomatic channels.

Referring to the "difficult and complicated" situation in the region, Genscher said in their talks the two sides had placed emphasis on how to shape the future peace order in the region. "We are convinced that Iran must play an important role in shaping and establishing a peaceful order in the region," he stressed.

Genscher said his country had recognized from the very outset "the aggressive policy of (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn who made Iran the first victim of his aggression." He was referring to the eight year old Iraqi imposed war on Iran which inflicted heavy human and material losses on the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq. The West, particularly the U.S. backed Saddam in

his war of aggression against Islamic Iran mainly due to its hostility with the Islamic revolution.

"We believe that Saddam's policies are a threat to its people and regional stability. That is why we consider it necessary to implement the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council in this regard."

He also welcomed improvement of relations between Iran and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, particularly Saudi Arabia as well as the recent visit of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Syria and Turkey which he said was "important in bringing about stability in the region." Genscher also underlined the responsibility of the European Community towards the plight of the Iraqi refugees in Iran which he said shouldered the greatest burden. He also lauded Iran's humanitarian aid to the refugees whose number have exceeded one million. He also said Iran had agreed that Germany coordinate EC aid to the Iraqi refugees.

Elsewhere he said Germany is interested in seeing a positive development in relations between Iran and the West. For the same reason, he welcomed last week's visit to Tehran of the French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. He also hoped that Iran's relations with the United States, United Kingdom and other Western states would also improve.

On the question of the hostages, he said the Iranian leadership had shown "understanding" on the situation of the Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Genscher said he had also discussed bilateral ties as well as important regional and international issues with the Iranian officials. He termed the holding of the joint German-Iranian economic commission meet in Tehran in June as another step for the promotion of bilateral relations.

Velayati also welcomed the German Government's role in aiding the Iraqi refugees in Iran and expressed hope that exchange of high-level delegations between the two countries will continue. He also urged the international community to mobilise all its possibilities to help the Iraqi refugees "who have lost everything they had."

Discusses Iraq With President

LD0705133491 Tehran IRNA in English 1244 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Visiting German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today that a proposed plan to try Saddam Husayn as a war criminal should be pursued seriously.

"Germany and the European Community are against any leniency towards Iraq's ruling regime, believing that the Iraqi people should decide their own fate through free elections," he said.

Genscher maintained that since the Islamic Republic played a key part in solving regional issues, Germany and other EC members were interested in learning more about Iran's stances.

He also extended an invitation from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay a state visit to Bonn which was accepted. The exact date, however, has yet to be fixed.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Genscher that the prolongation of Iraq's status quo has served to add to the problems of the Iraqi people and those of the region.

"The situation of those who have remained in Iraq is not better than that of those who have fled the country and if the current situation drags on more people are likely to leave their home country," he cautioned.

"In our opinion, holding free elections is the only way of restoring security in Iraq through which people can choose the type of government they like, or else security will not come into being in Iraq," Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani too, extended an invitation to the German chancellor to pay an official visit to Tehran in a near future.

Meets Finance Minister

LD0705145591 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Germany is keen on expansion of its ties with Iran, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh here today.

He said that the coming visit of German Economic Affairs Minister Juergen Moellemann to Iran will help promotion of economic relations and technical and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Nurbakhsh also expressed hope that mutual cooperation would further expand in view of the "sensitive situation" in the region, coupled with the "ideal conditions" in the Islamic Republic of Iran after the recent regional developments.

Meanwhile Majles (parliament) Deputy Reza Abdollahi said in a pre-agenda speech here today that Germany should complete the nuclear power plant in the southern port-city of Bushehr in order to prove its good intentions towards Iran. He also called on the Foreign Ministry to follow up the implementation of the project in talks with Genscher.

The German foreign minister heading a delegation arrived here Monday night.

President Receives Departing PRC Ambassador

LD0705212591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] The president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, received the Chinese ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Benzuo Wang, this afternoon in a farewell meeting.

In the meeting the Chinese ambassador informed the president about the Chinese Government's willingness to expand and extend its cooperation with Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, thanking the Chinese ambassador for his efforts toward strengthening the two countries' ties, called China a state that always had good cooperation with Iran during the imposed war, and stressed the expansion and extension of the two countries' ties in all desired fields.

During the meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani conveyed an invitation for the Chinese president to visit Iran to the ambassador of that country.

Commentary Views Problems of Cheney Gulf Trip

LD0705164691 Tehran Voice of Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 7 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney arrived in Saudi Arabia last night on the first leg of his four-day visit to several Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region to discuss, according to the U.S. Defense Department spokesman, security arrangements with those countries' leaders. The trip is taking place at a time when debate about the future security of the region is the current topic of discussion for political and military analysts of Persian Gulf issues.

The means of establishing security in this sensitive and strategic region of the world are seen from two different viewpoints. One, the establishment of security with the presence and participation of foreign forces; and the other, the establishment of security on the basis of the cooperation and participation of the countries in the region in accordance with agreed principles and the interests of the region's Muslim people.

Of course, each of these two viewpoints comprise a spectrum of varying views. What occurred in the Kuwaiti crisis and the Persian Gulf war was based on the first viewpoint, which manifested itself in the form of the presence of U.S. Army units for the defense of Saudi Arabia and then turned into a vast dispatch of troops by the United States, Europe, and others to the Persian Gulf.

The special feature of this means of establishing security is its high cost, which was borne in particular by the countries of the region. Reliance on the forces and resources of the countries of the region, that is, the second viewpoint, although previously manifesting itself in the form of the Cooperation Council of six Persian Gulf littoral countries, soon demonstrated its ineffectiveness in the Kuwaiti crisis, because of its lack of comprehensiveness and the existence of non-peace-seeking motives. It should be said, however, that arrangements encompassing realistic viewpoints about Persian Gulf security have not yet been set up.

The move of the Gulf Cooperation Council in turning to the issue of a role for Iran in the establishment of security in the region, as recently announced by 'Abdallah Bisharah, the council's general secretary, has prepared a positive background against which the countries of the region can take constructive measures in this regard, undoing past mistakes to some extent.

Economic, social, and cultural development, combined with mutual aid and extensive cooperation in all the potentially rich countries of the Persian Gulf region, require security in the region, and the stronger the links between countries, the more certain will be the success of joint action.

War in the Persian Gulf has now officially ended. It is therefore necessary to prevent any further action or plan which could bring about another crisis similar to the recent one. If the current trip of the U.S. defense secretary to the region entails such a danger, a lasting crisis will take shape in the region; something in the interest neither of the international economy nor of the people of the region.

What makes this trip seem more sensitive than previous trips, however, is Dick Cheney's remarks a few hours before he set out, when receiving the Medal of Freedom from the Union of New York Jews. He said there that during the Persian Gulf war, relations between the United States and Tel Aviv became close to an extent unprecedented throughout the more than 40 years of historic friendship between the United States and Israel.

In the opinion of some analysts, these remarks on the threshold of a trip to the Persian Gulf show the U.S. desire to establish a link between, and to undertake parallel measures in connection with, the unfinished Persian Gulf crisis and the issue of occupied Palestine in a way dictated by the interests of the supporters of the Zionist leaders.

At any rate, the U.S. defense secretary's trip to the region, which seems to be aimed at seeking ways of prolonging the military presence of the West, especially the United States, in the Persian Gulf region, is being closely followed by the observers of the region. In addition to Saudi Arabia, Cheney will visit Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain, and some of these countries have raised the issue of reconstruction and equipping their military; it would seem that the U.S. defense secretary will be receiving huge orders in that regard.

Omani Labor Minister Meets With Habibi

NC0705094091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Yesterday, visiting Omani Labor Minister Mustahil Bin-Ahmad al-Mashani met with First Vice President Mr. Habibi. During the meeting, the Omani labor minister praised the Islamic Republic's policy. He described relations between the two countries as positive and emphasized the need to preserve and expand these

ties. He also said that Iran's achievements after the Islamic Revolution in various fields, especially in labor affairs, are a source of pride for the area and the world.

First Vice President Mr. Habibi expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the delegations' talks and described such visits as effective in promoting ties. Regarding security in the Persian Gulf, Mr. Habibi said: As the Islamic Republic of Iran has stated repeatedly, regional security should be ensured by the regional countries. The first vice president stressed the need for the two countries to cooperate and exchange expertise in the fields of manpower training, expert training, and technical and vocational matters. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Kamali, minister of labor and social affairs.

Memorandum Signed

LD0705163991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] During the last round of talks between the labor ministers of Iran and Oman, which took place this morning, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the two ministers. The memorandum of understanding stresses the importance of visits by expert delegations, and the exchange of expertise in the fields of labor, technical, and professional affairs between the two countries.

In the memorandum the coordination of the positions of both sides in international and regional organizations in the fields of labor, technical, and professional training has been noted.

Meanwhile, the Iranian side has expressed its willingness in supplying Oman's required labor force. According to the report, the Omani labor minister was seen off by our country's labor and social affairs minister at the Tehran Airport.

Iran, Italy To Broaden Economic Cooperation

LD0705192891 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Italy will collaborate with Iran in several projects in the free trade zone on Qeshm Island, it was announced here today, following talks between Iran's minister of mines and metals and the head of Italy's public sector industries.

Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi and Franco Nobili also reached agreement on establishing a technical and trade enterprise in Italy for promoting Iran's steel exports, and for setting up an iron and steel research centre in Iran. Italy has also offered Iran dlrs one billion in credit.

The Italian delegation comprises more than 50 experts and consultants, and they have already held talks with various Iranian officials including the ministers of energy, post, telephone and telegraph and officials from the Central Bank of Iran.

Italy is involved in a steel project in Mobarakeh of Esfahan, and the two countries' joint economic commission is to meet in next autumn.

[Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1630 GMT on 7 May carries a similar report on Nobili's talks with Mahluji which adds: "In a meeting between the head of Italy's public sector industries, Mr. Franco Nobili, with the minister of defense and armed forces logistics, Mr. Torkan, which was held yesterday, the two sides stressed the elimination of financial problems and supply of military equipment by Italy. In the meeting, also, the rendering of Iran's military industries to dual-purpose was investigated and the two sides expressed their satisfaction about bilateral cooperation"]

Minister, Australian Trade Minister Discuss Ties

LD0605124691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] The first round of talks between the Australian minister of trade and industry, who arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of an economic delegation, and our country's agriculture minister have begun. According to the Central News Unit, the Australian minister of trade and industry referred in the talks to the fact that the two countries can cooperate in the fields of the transfer of technology, livestock breeding and training and research, and expressed Australia's wish to expand bilateral cooperation.

Our country's agriculture minister, for his part, referred to the cooperation between the two countries in various fields and called for the creation of the necessary facilities for the export of non-oil products from Iran to Australia and for the establishment of a balance of trade between the two countries.

Borders 'Remain Open' to Iranians Residing Abroad

LD0705165491 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial Tuesday commented on a recent remark by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani that all Iranians residing abroad can return home without fearing any legal problem.

The Persian daily said that the statement is no change in principle—the Iranian borders continue to remain open to all Iranians. But the fact is that the Iranian authorities who have now got over with the 1980-88 war feel they can be more lenient towards all Iranian citizens abroad including the draft dodgers who left the country illegally.

However, it added, the affectionate move of the Iranian authorities must in no way be interpreted as an attempt to undo the mistakes of the system as the Islamic Republic has never barred any Iranian with no particular problem to leave or enter the country.

But, the daily noted, Iran's leniency towards the Iranians abroad will by no means apply of those who have acted as "the pillars of the former regime or have committed a crime."

The aim is to show mercy towards those who have left the country and now misled by poisonous propaganda have the impression that they are barred from returning home.

They must understand that the poisonous propaganda about Iran has been launched by thsoe who seek their own interest in seeing the Iranian citizens abroad homeless, confused and lost, wrote the paper.

Further Reportage on Iraqi Refugee Situation

Red Crescent Issues Appeal

LD0605170591 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Head of Iran's Red Crescent Society [RCS] today appealed to the world people to help Iraqi refugees residing in Iran and to provide them with their essentials. "With the approach of summer and shortage of drinking water in areas inhabited by the refugees, the likelihood of epidemic diseases spreading among them especially among those living along Sar-e Pol Zahab border strip is high," Dr. Seyfollah Vahid Dastjerdi cautioned.

Addressing a press conference, the RCS chief also held the U.S.-led allied forces responsible for the homelessess of a large number of Iraqi people and called on them to rush to help the huge waves of the refugees. Despite putting up 100,000 tents donated by the Iranian people and foreign countries along Iran-Iraq border, the question of housing the refugees has remained a major problem, he said. Dastjerdi put the total foreign relief aid sent to Iran until May 5 at 7,000 tons including vehicles used to transport foreign relief teams. Of the 7,000 ton foreign donation, France with 900 tons had the largest share, the RCS chief pointed out. Besides other donations, only the foodstuff donated by RCS and the Iranian people for the refugees weighed 5,132 tons, he said.

Foreign Aid Termed 'Insignificant'

LD0605124191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Red Crescent Chief Mr. Vahid Dastjerdi was interviewed by journalists this morning about the means and level of assistance to the Iraqi refugees. According to our correspondent, Mr. Dastjerdi said: The assistance sent by the country's Red Crescent so far has consisted of 100 kinds of items, the main ones being 80,000 tents; 70,000 blankets; 3 million cans of food, fruit, and fruit juice; 554,000 cans of fish; 420 tons of bread; 470 tons of rice; and 128 tons of sugar.

According to the report, the head of the Red Crescent continued by describing as very insignificant the level of foreign aid compared to domestic aid for the refugees and said: The greatest amount of foreign aid has been sent by France, with 28 planeloads weighing 900 tons and the least by Japan with two planeloads weighing 91 tons.

Mr. Dastjerdi concluded by saying: Following the cyclone in Bangladesh, aid from the Islamic Republic of Iran weighing 90 tons was sent in a plane today to that country.

Western Coverage Criticized

LD0705172791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] The nation and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] have put all their efforts into offering aid to more than one million Iraqi refugees, and despite the repeated calls by the state authorities for international cooperation to alleviate the refugees' problems, there has not been a serious response to this issue so far. Some Western media, in a negative reaction [vakonesh-e enfe'ali] to divert public opinion have published untruths such as: Iran does not distribute some of the aid for the refugees; or: it creates problems in dispatching the aid—thereby trying to justify the lack of attention to the plight of Iraqi Muslims by the instigators of their exodus [avaregi]. For example the Austrian Radio claimed in a program that some parts of the aid for the Iraqi refugees has been lost.

In this regard, after the adverse propaganda by the Austrian Radio-TV against the IRI, according to a report by IRNA, the official in charge of coordinating Kurdish aid in Austria, denied such reports and spoke of the well-intentioned cooperation of Iranian officials.

Position on Refugees Denounced

NC0705180791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 5 May 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The clerical regime's propaganda paraphernalia has been trying as hard as it can for more than a month to exploit the issue of the Iraqi refugees. During the past month, the regime tried—after opening its borders to the Iraqi Kurdish refugees—to adopt a humanitarian mask and thus find a place for itself in international public opinion. During this period, the deceitful clerics have tried to show that they have been able to attend to 1 million Iraqi Kurdish refugees on their own and without spectacular assistance from nations and humanitarian organizations, and that this has entailed heavy expenses and many efforts by the Islamic Republic's regime.

It is not easy for a [word indistinct] regime to shoulder the heavy burden of playing host to 1 million refugees, to tend to them as necessary, and to treat them humanely. From the very beginning, however, the approach of the Islamic Republic's regime was not one of goodwill toward the problem of Kurdish refugees and did not help them as was fit and necessary. Also, despite its officials' allegations and propaganda, the Islamic Republic has

extended extremely insignificant help to the refugees. Thus, the opening of the border and the alleged acceptance of the refugees is not humanitarian, but is only aimed at objectives the clerical regime considers significant and necessary.

At this stage the clerics need the world to regard them differently and to come to the conclusion that the Islamic Republic has given up its tough and callous stands, has ended its massacres, and has realized that it should come to terms with the international community and coexist peacefully with it and, in general, to adopt a humanitarian stand and behavior. Naturally, the problem of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees can be a favorable way for the clerics to reach these demagogic ends.

Meanwhile, the greedy clerics have been trying to obtain great amounts of foreign exchange from the homelessness of the Iraqi Kurds and to pocket astronomical sums under the label of relief to the refugees. If we look at the regime's propaganda during this period, we can see how clear these two objectives are. On the one hand the clerics speak about the government and the Islamic nation's relief to the refugees, alleging that the Kurdish refugees have nothing to fear, thanks to the clerical regime and this regime's so-called humanitarian stand, and that they do not need international assistance. On the other hand, they directly and indirectly cry out that their back is breaking under the heavy expenses of these refugees and that international and humanitarian organizations should pay $1 million daily to the clerical regime to meet the needs of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

Reports from various parts of Kordestan indicate that the heavy burden of hosting and attending to the homeless Iraqi brothers and sisters in various areas is put on the shoulders of the Iranian Kurdish brothers and sisters who regard this as a humanitarian and national duty. Thus, they justly do not spare any assistance and are doing their best to help the homeless Kurdish brothers and sisters, especially since they know and see that apart from propaganda and commotion the clerical regime has not done anything for them.

After the people of Kordestan are thanked, the masses and people in our country should be thanked for their assistance. Undoubtedly this assistance meets part of the needs of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees. With the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan and the masses in our country sincerely sharing everything they have with their refugee brothers and sisters and making them feel that they are not homeless, what has the Islamic Republic's regime done for them and how is it treating them?

The clerical regime, which feigns help to the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in its propaganda and alleges that it is going even further in its humanitarian duty, has not taken any serious and useful steps but has only made do with half-baked efforts. The relief that is sent from abroad reaches the refugee brothers and sisters only after being plundered.

The hypocrisy and duplicity of the clerical regime in this is clear, and our Iraqi Kurdish brothers and sisters see the hypocritical and inhuman face of this regime much more clearly. The refugees see for themselves how the officials of the Islamic Republic sell one sack of flour for 700 tumans to the refugees or to their hosts who, after opening the sack, see that it carries the impudent phrase: A gift from the Islamic Republic to the Iraqi refugees. This example and dozens of others of so-called assistance show how hypocritical and demagogic the clerical regime is.

The clerics are aware, better than anyone else, that they have not done even one-tenth of what they claim to have done for the Iraqi refugees. They also know that the burden of tending to the Iraqi refugees is placed on the shoulders of the Iranian people in general and the Kordestan people in particular. They want countries to send millions and even billions of dollars to Iran so that they can meet the needs of the refugees.

Of course, in view of everything that all of the countries, international public opinion, and especially humanitarian forums and circles know about the clerical regime, their request has not been fulfilled as they expected. Although it has met some of the basic needs of these refugees, the world is not prepared to send all of the necessary assistance through the Islamic regime to the refugees. This is why these countries and humanitarian organizations want the clerical regime to allow them to extend their assistance to the refugees directly. But of course this proposal does not satisfy the clerics, and hence their opposition to it.

In general, the stance of the regime of the hypocrites on the Iraqi Kurdish refugees is extremely demagogic and without any humanitarian and, as the regime puts it, Islamic objectives. The Islamic Republic's objective is to exploit the Iraqi refugees' situation in order to deceive international public opinion, to gain [word indistint] benefits, and to use the tragedies suffered by the Iraqi Kurdish brothers and sisters as a pretext to carry out transactions.

Fars Refugee Camp Established

LD0605170491 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., May 6, IRNA—A refugee camp for sheltering 30,000 people was set up in Salal District of Javanrud, Bakhtaran Province by the people and local authorities of Fars Province, Governor General 'Ali Danesh Monfared said here Sunday. He said the refugees settled in the camp enjoy good nutrition and health services.

The camp named "Hafez", after the world famous Shirazi poet, is equipped with a 30-bed field clinic with a radiological ward and laboratory and five field baths and bakeries. Also, for garbage disposal which is one of the major problems of the camps, 70 sweepers from Shiraz municipality and five mini vans have been dispatched to the camp. Moreover, a 12-member team is carrying out disinfection and vaccination works, Monfared explained.

Stating that "Hafez" camp is expected to become a permanent one in the region, he said it will also be supplied with drinking water in a near future.

Majles Speakers on Education, State Monopolies

LD0705101291

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian at 0350 GMT on 7 May carries an announcer-read recorded report on the Iranian Majles session in Tehran on 7 May. The announcer says that Majles Speaker Mehdi Mahdavi-Karrubi chaired the session and that the pre-agenda speakers were Mr. (Abdollahi) from Zanjan and Mr. (Dammadi) from Sari.

The announcer quotes Mr. (Abdollahi) as saying: "Now that the German foreign minister has come to Tehran it is necessary for Germany to review its past relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as a gesture of goodwill and, to prove this, it should act on its commitment to complete and render operational the Bushehr atomic power station. I ask the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to pursue this matter with seriousness."

Mr. (Abdollahi) says teachers and educators should be thanked for their work, but more attention must be paid to technical and scientific training. Mr. (Abdollahi) continues that the standard of wheat production is falling, and the quality of wheat and therefore quality of flour produced is suffering. More attention has to be paid to scientific know-how and competence in production of wheat, storage, distribution and production of flour. Mr. (Abdollahi) says there is need to subsidize the needy who will be hit hard by the increase in the price of wheat, especially in rural areas where the cost of making bread is "double the price paid by city-dwellers." Mr. (Abdollahi) believes state monopolies should be broken up and the resources under the control of state monopolies should be given to the people and the private sector to create more competition and more jobs.

According to the announcer, Mr. (Damadi) speaks on educational progress: "..if we want to avoid falling into the traps set up by big powers, we have no choice but to reform and liberate our education system." Mr. (Damadi) thanks the minister of education and teachers for their efforts and hard work. The announcer quotes Mr. (Damadi) as saying: "My suggestion to the respected president is this: He should decide that if there are Iranians living abroad who want to assist in the reconstruction of the country and think of this as their national and patriotic duty, they should return to the country so that we can all get on with the building of this country."

Religious Leader Issues Call for Hajj

LD0705150791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 May 91

[Excerpt] The Seminar on Familiarization and Coordination with the Hajj Medical Team of the Islamic Republic of Iran convened this morning in the Azadi gymnasium hall with an address by Mr. Emam-Jamarani.

According to our report, the representative of the leader [vali-ye faqih] and head of the Hajj, Religious Endowment, and Charities Organization, in his remarks on how to perform Abraham's Hajj [Hajj-e Ebrahimi], said: Hajj is a factor that unites Muslims and guides the lives of people. It means surrender to God and all his creation in everyway. If there is no disavowal of the pagans, Muslims do not consider that pilgrimage a true one. Hajj should be the occasion where the world can hear the disavowal of pagans cry, and the declaration of disavowal and contempt should be a public cry: The contempt that Muslims feel toward America's hegemony over the region and the contempt toward Zionist and their killing of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Mr. Emam-Jamarani concluded: We hope that the original traditions of Abraham's hajj will not be taken away from our hajj. He also hoped that obstacles will be removed and that the divinely protected and secured territory may become a haven for the cry against pagans and oppressors. [passage omitted]

New Oil-Drilling Rigs Commissioned in Ahuaz

LD0705162891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] At a ceremony at Ahvaz Grade Camp this morning, six new heavy duty drilling rigs were commissioned in the oil rich areas of the south for implementation of the plan to increase oil production. With the commissioning of of the new rigs, more than 20 oil-wells will be drilled by the end of the year [20 March 92] in the southern oil-rich areas.

According to an IRNA report, during the cermony, the managing director of the National Drilling company said: At the moment, drilling operations are being carried out by 28 drilling rigs in the southern oil-rich areas and by commissioning 12 more rigs, the company's total number of active drilling rigs will be increased to 40 by the end of the year.

Agha Jari Oil Desalination Plant Operational

NC0705095091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] The Marun Two oil desalination plant in Agha Jari became operational yesterday. The plant, which has a total capacity of 55,000 barrels of oil per day, is located 20 km from the city of Agha Jari and consists of an electric desalination furnace, three oil pumps, and two water pumps. The plant separates salt from the oil in various stages and then transfers the desalinated oil to the Marun Two unit for export or for use by domestic refineries. Currently, the plant is capable of desalinating 28,000 barrels of oil per day. It was built in four months

at a cost of 500 million rials by experts and workers in the southern oil-producing area.

Pakistan

Kashmiri Blames Indian Service for Bomb

BK0805075091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Islamabad, May 8 (AFP)—At least five people were killed and more than 20 injured when a bomb destroyed a clinic headed by a Kashmiri nationalist doctor Wednesday in Rawalpindi, northern Pakistan, witnesses said. It was feared the toll would climb, as ambulances continued to evacuate victims more than an hour after the mid-morning blast, witnesses said.

The three-story building housing Dr. Farooq Haider's clinic collapsed following the powerful blast in the crowded Saddar District and nearby buildings were damaged, witnesses said. They added that about 100 people were in the clinic at the time of the blast, but colleagues said Dr. Haider was not among them.

The doctor is one of the leaders in Pakistan of the Jammu and Kashmir National Liberation Front, which is fighting for the secession of Moslem-majority Kashmir from India.

Police, who confirmed that the explosion was caused by a bomb, sealed off the area while explosives experts began an investigation. Firefighters were trying to control a blaze triggered by the explosion.

Dr. Haider accused agents of the Indian secret police, or RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], of carrying out the bomb attack.

"I am certain that this inhuman act is done by RAW agents," Dr. Haider told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE when contacted by telephone at his residence. He said it was only by chance that he had been absent from the clinic because of illness for the past three days. Quoting colleagues, he said the bomb had been planted near his desk.

"I feel sorry for the innocent people who have died," he said, adding: "In our cause of liberation of Kashmir from India we are always ready for martyrdom and such attacks are part of the game and cannot intimidate us."

Spokesman Condemns Indian Killings in Kashmir

BK0705114691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Pakistan has strongly condemned the killing of more than 80 people by Indian troops in Kupwara District in occupied Kashmir on Sunday [5 May] last. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today expressed indignation that the Indian authorities had sought to justify the indiscriminate killing of innocent people by falsely claiming that they were crossing the Line of Control after being trained in Azad Kashmir. He rejected this allegation as being part of the Indian disinformation campaign to hoodwink the international community regarding its inhuman practices and violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir.

The spokesman called upon the international community to urge India to end its campaign of repression in occupied valley. He once again underlined the urgent need for peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute through faithful implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

Situation on Kashmir Line 'Extremely Tense'

BK0805142791 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] The shelling of civilian areas in Azad Kashmir by the Indian forces continued for the sixth day today. The Indian forces indiscriminately shelled Shahkot area without any provocation, causing loss of life and property. They also fired on civilian vehicles on the road close to the Line of Control. In a similar incident, Indian forces fired on a civilian bus, as a result of which two persons were killed and three others were injured. These incidents have created fear and panic in the area and the situation on both sides of the line of control is extemely tense. The Pakistani forces stationed in the area have been ordered to take appropriate steps.

Meanwhile, the director general of military operations of the Pakistan Army has held talks with his Indian counterpart on this unprovoked shelling of innocent civilians.

AJK Premier Denies Kashmiris Training

BK0805161391 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Prime Minister Mumtaz Hussain Rathore has vehemently condemned the Indian forces' indiscriminate firing at the Kashmiri people. In a statement in Muzaffarabad today, he strongly rejected India's allegation that the Kashmiris are being trained in Azad Kashmir. He pointed out that thousands of families are taking refuge in AJK as a result of the repressive actions of the occupying forces in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The AJK prime minister called upon the United Nations, Amnesty International, and other human rights organizations to take note of the massacre of Kashmiri Muslims and take steps to end repressive actions in the occupied Kashmir.

The AJK people today expressed their strong indignation and outrage at the massacre of more than 80 Kashmiri Muslims by Indian forces at Kupwara in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Markets, shops, and business establishments remained closed and the vehicles were off the road. A protest rally was held in Muzaffarabad to condemn the barbaric masscre of Kashmiris by Indian forces. Addressing the rally, the speakers condemned the barbaric crimes that the Indian forces are committing to suppress the occupied Kashmir people's struggle to achieve their fundamental right of self-determination. Later, a protest note was handed to the UN observers' office in Muzaffarabad.

Kashmir Freedom Movement 'Cannot Be Suppressed'

BK0405134491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] The adviser to the prime minister on information and broadcasting, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, has said the freedom movement in occupied Kashmir cannot be suppressed, as the Kashmiris have decided to live freely. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said the Kashmiris who were rendering supreme sacrifices to liberate their homeland would finally succeed in their struggle.

Editorial Questions U.S. Interests in Nuclear Issue

BK0705051391 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 May 91 p 6

[Editorial: "What is this see-saw all about?"]

[Text] To be fair to President George Bush it must be admitted that he has left us in no doubt as to what he expects from us. He wants total and abject surrender on some of those issues we happen to hold important. For instance, our sovereign right to decide what is good for us. Mr. Bush has views so strikingly different as to be almost irreconcilable from our position. He seems to believe that our nuclear research programme is a crime against what he considers is the *law* as made for the United States at the Capitol Hill in Washington. That the *law* in question appears to us to favour the Zionist appetite rather than our palate is irrelevant to Mr. Bush. He has no time for our submission in respect of our defence concerns. Now that he has lost all interest in Afghanistan, Pakistan is dispensable. That's the crux of the matter. All that talk of defence of democracy in Afghanistan was poppycock. Those who had eyes and the honesty to see what Pakistan's real interest at heart was, have been saying so from the very beginning. But the dictator in power ordained otherwise. He made horrible errors. We must now bear the consequences. Loss of US charity is one of them, but by no means the most galling.

What is the most galling part of this unedifying part of the see-saw going on between Islamabad and Washington? It is the submissive vacillation in Islamabad and growing arrogance in White House. Every other day the Pakistani citizen is pestered with all manner of speculative stuff purveyed by interested quarters, via their obliging publicists, through the undiscriminating—or unwary—media. An open-eyed observer finds this no more rewarding than a cat-and-mouse diversion. President Bush has said that he had said the last word. Why can't we see the obvious?

We have been led by the development of events to believe that Mr. Bush wants just one thing. Humiliation of this country is his sole objective. This is not to be confused with his concern about proliferation of nuclear weapons. If Israel has the weapons the peace of the world is strengthened. If Pakistan should have even a modicum of theoretical knowledge on this subject, the peace of the planet is thrown into dire jeopardy. When such be the logic, what is there to negotiate? Why do we find stories thrown into our face about possible meetings between Pakistan and the US at unspecified levels, in unspecified places on unspecified dates? If there is nothing we can do about the spreading of these bits of slights, we can at least do ourselves the favour of being clear about where we stand. Hasn't Premier Nawaz Sharif said clearly enough that our nuclear research programme, such as it is, remains unavailable as a bargaining chip? For the moment that is what we see as the simple fact. If the suspended aid is tied to our surrender, there still are not many in this country to bite this bait.

French Envoy on Nuclear Power Plant Talks

BK0305101791 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 May 91 p 1

[Text] Karachi, May 2—The French ambassador to Pakistan, Jean-Pierre Masset, has said that his country is aware of the engery requirements of a developing country like Pakistan.

Replying to a question regarding the supply of nuclear power plant to Pakistan at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs here Thursday [2 May] he said that "it was very difficult to answer that question because it involved very complicated issues".

The ambassador said that "there were three different aspects attached to the status of supplying power plant. One of them is the issue of reprocessing plant, which was delayed for various reasons. However, he mentioned that his government was not responsible for slow down of the discussions".

"The financial problem is also one of the major hurdles, responsible for delay", he said. The French government according to him, could not give two to three billion dollars to Pakistan as gift. Pakistan [was] to arrange funds for the plant, he added.

The third major issue is the non-proliferation aspect attached to this deal. Pakistan's intentions to sign the treaty would help accelerate this deal", [quotation marks as published] he added.

Talking on Pakistan and French relations, he said that both the countries enjoy good relations and there were all the reasons to have good terms. He said that the leaders of the two nations have been visiting each other and both the countries enjoy good trade ties.

Under the last financial protocol signed between the two governments, France extended a soft loan of 140 million dollars to Pakistan, he said.

The ambassador said that his country has high esteem of Pakistan's capabilities.

Masset said that France was the fourth exporting power enjoying balanced economy with sound industrial and agricultural sectors. He, however, regretted that the image of French people was not projected as they liked to be.

He said that his country had no territorial plans nor had an enemy. Democracy was flourishing in a peace loving

country. Human rights were dear to the French people and they are more open, he added.

Islamic Forum Remains Firm on Shari'ah Stance

BK0705041991 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 May 91 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, May 5—Islamic Forum comprising eight religio-political parties, is firm on the stand that none of its leaders will meet the Prime Minister separately despite overtures made to the former federal minister Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi in this regard.

Insiders say the Prime Minister is facing difficulties in enforcing the Shariah [Islamic law]. The Prime Minister is reportedly under pressure from a powerful lobby not to make Shariah the supreme law of the country.

According to sources, the Islamic Forum stands for incorporation of all its eight demands in the Shariah Bill.

The Islamic Forum is to meet again in Islamabad at the residence of Qazi Hussain Ahmad on May 7 at 10 a.m.

Prime Minister Agrees To Amend Shari'ah Bill

BK0805005691 Hong Kong AFP in English 2206 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Islamabad, May 7 (AFP)—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met religious leaders here Tuesday and agreed to several amendments to legislation designed to enforce Islamic Shariah law in Pakistan.

Seven out of eight amendments proposed by the ulema, or religious scholars, were incorporated into the draft bill with "unanimity," an official statement said.

It did not say what the seven amendments were, but it indicated that the eighth dealt with interest on loans, which the religious leaders want to see swiftly eliminated in line with Koranic teachings.

The legislation envisions the creation of a broad-based commission that would recommend ways to Islamicize the economy and monitor the elimination of interest, or "riba," within three years. The transition period could be extended by parliament.

Mr. Sharif's government introduced the shariah bill in the National Assembly last month and began talks with religious and other groups in predominantly Moslem Pakistan to accomodate their views.

The main religious parties had rejected the bill in its initial form, saying it was too weak.

Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has also rejected the bill as unacceptable, saying Monday that her Pakistan Peoples Party did not want the nation to become a "fundamentalist country."

Japanese Diplomat on Export Credit Insurance

OW0605042291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0356 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Karachi, May 6 KYODO—The Japanese Government started to withdraw export credit insurance covering Japanese exports to Pakistan last month, according to Karachi business and industry sources.

In Islamabad, a Japanese embassy official, who asked anonymity, said Sunday the decision was prompted by Pakistan's consistently poor foreign exchange reserves and the fact that many European countries and the United States also have withdrawn export insurance on exports to Pakistan.

The business and industry sources said that even before Japan's withdrawal of export credit insurance from April 1, Japanese exporters were demanding third-country bank confirmation on letters of credit used by Pakistani importers.

Many industry sources believe Japan's decision to withdraw the insurance was also greatly influenced by the kidnapping of three Japanese students in remote Sindh Province on March 17.

Japan and the United States are Pakistan's top two trading partners and the withdrawal of credit insurance for their exports to Pakistan could severely disrupt supplies of badly needed raw materials and other capital goods for industry, the sources said.

The withdrawal of export credit insurance would mean higher insurance charges for exports to Pakistan on a case-by-case basis and also would reflect badly on Pakistan's credit worthiness and other economic indicators which already are low, they said.